

Praying the News
Session 2 Lens for Listening

Questions for Conversation

Choose 2-3 questions that are appropriate to your group and the time you have.

1. What did you hear in the recording that spoke to you today?
2. Recall some of the shared news stories (or others): How does asking, “Where is God in this story?” affect what you hear?
3. Again, recall some news stories. Think about who is affected indirectly in the story. Whose voice are we not hearing? How are other-than-human creatures affected? Can you think of examples where, as Steve, says, “the media carries a bias that is tilted toward power and privilege.”
4. What are some of the lenses you use to listen to the news? What do you think is “fake news?” How might the label “fake news” be used to support a particular bias?
5. When you listen to news, who do you feel yourself drawn towards? Who do you feel a resistance toward? Sometimes our mind creates an “us” and “them” or a “good” and “bad” mentality. How can we seek to understand the perspective of another?
6. Steve names studying as prayer. Is there a particular issue or event, you feel called to study as your prayer this week?

Group Spiritual Practice

Read responsively

(1) As people of faith, we hope for a world of peace, justice, fair distribution of resources, respect for all of creation, respect for all peoples...

(2) Everyday we hear stories and see images of the many places in our world where there is pain, suffering, hunger, violence, disasters, despair....

(1) And we hear God’s call for *prayer and action* to bring hope and healing to these places of brokenness and pain.

(All) Prayer and action... two sides of the same coin.

(2) One way of offering prayer for each particular issue might be to simply take the words of your prayer card into your heart each time your eyes rest on it, and with your in-breath, hold it in God’s love and light, and with your out-breath, release it as you imagine it joining God’s prayer.

(1) Over and over, little bursts of prayer energy, released into the universe.¹

¹ Written by Marilyn Burrell in the “Praying for the World” brochure prepared for Sackville United Church, Sackville NB