

# Faith at Home

## Inspiration for Households

The Evangelical (Word-Centred) Tradition  
November 2020



### Six spiritual traditions: a journey for households

This series of “Faith at Home” invites us to consider the strengths and weaknesses of the traditions we have been fostered in, followed or found - and to draw on patterns other than our own. We will do well to pursue and respect each of the traditions, as well as accepting our limitations in them - recognising that we are only part of the body of Christ and genuinely need others who function differently to us to complete the whole incarnation and presence of Christ in the world.

Richard Foster’s book **Streams of living water** and the Renovare **Spiritual traditions workbook** for small groups encourage us to reflect on the different ways that people have practiced their discipleship in different ways, in different times and places, contexts and challenges over the centuries.

Six major ‘traditions’ or ‘spiritual orientations’ or ‘ways’ are identified:

- ▶ Contemplative
- ▶ Incarnational
- ▶ Holiness
- ▶ **Evangelical**
- ▶ Social justice
- ▶ Charismatic

Over these 6 months we will explore activities based on each of the traditions through adopting its ways (or disciplines). Pick one or a few of the following activities, try them with your household and enjoy what happens!!!

### Evangelical – the word centred tradition

In this tradition we are given the power of language to explore and express God’s faithfulness to us and our faith response to God. The opportunity and challenge to articulate our ideas about God and what we believe, and to tell our stories of God are tremendously significant in crystallising our ideas, building community as we are heard and hear others and give voice into the world of the deepest parts of our life.

### With your household read:

“God has given us lots of different ways to understand the world, each other and God. Our eyes, ears, feelings, actions, and encounters with other people all help us with this. Words are a great tool for helping us think and understand, express ourselves and communicate with others. God does all of these things: thinks, expresses, speaks. So much so, that God is sometimes called The Word.

What are the activities of the Word centred tradition?”

Listening, Storytelling, Reading, Reading Aloud, Telling Our Own Stories, Exploring the Dynamic Meanings of Words....



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### Some things to do in your household

#### Word games

Experience together the power of words themselves. Play a word association game:

Play Taboo, Scattergories, Scrabble, Balderdash

#### iNtial words

Read the story of the Bible together (choose from the passages below) but substitute your names (or some celebrities for the parts no one is prepared to identify with).

#### Bible scape

Choose a part of the Bible (perhaps one of the lectionary readings for the week), find it on [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) and print it out in the largest font you can. Put the paper in the middle of your table, and spread some paper (either blank pieces of A3/A4 overlapping together or butcher's paper if it's available). Fill the blank paper around the passage with a 'scape' of the passage.

Gather some textas, and crafty odds and ends and blu tak. Read the passage together and give everyone the opportunity to create something from the story/ passage that they are particularly interested in.

#### Storytelling

Make a pack of cards with story telling topics on them. Put them in a box and allow 2 people to draw one out at dinnertime, afternoon tea time or bed time and tell their story (yes, obviously you'll need to turn off all electronic devices for this)

#### Suggested topics:

- ▶ Tell of a time you won or lost something
- ▶ Tell us about something funny that happened or that you saw today
- ▶ Tell us of a time when you thought about God in the last little while

- ▶ Tell of a time when you felt like giving up
- ▶ Tell of a time when something fantastic happened
- ▶ Tell of a time when you were surprised

#### Verb noun adjective adverb

Take a Bible passage and together take out all of the 'filler' words like pronouns, conjunctions, prepositions, etc... and just list (in order) the verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs. For example: Matt 9:35-37 might be

*Jesus towns villages  
teaching synagogues  
preaching good news  
healing sickness  
crowds compassion harassed helpless  
sheep without shepherd  
said harvest plentiful workers few.  
Ask Lord send*

When you have made your list, read the words as a poem. Do this by either taking turns reading one word each or by colour coding the nouns / verbs / adverbs / adjectives with a highlighter and allocating each person a colour (a little bit of editing will help greatly, don't slavishly include every verb just because it's there.)



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### Word and world

Choose a Lectionary Reading each week and print it out from [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) (or simply write it out). Stick it up on a wall in your shared living space. Print out “news” items [from on-line newspapers, your church news and school news bulletin (if applicable)] and place, along with scissors, glue and spare blank paper, in a basket near the Bible passage. You might even include something as old-school as a real newspaper!

During the week, set aside some times together to read the passage and browse through your collected material for items that remind you of something in the passage. As well (or alternatively) look through the material and cut out individual words that appear in the passage - a bit like a ransom note - and stick them around the passage. Across the week see how much of the Lectionary Reading you can find in the material.

### Readings

- ▶ Gn 12:1-9
- ▶ Rom 4:13-25
- ▶ Rom 5:1-8
- ▶ Gn 21:8-21
- ▶ Mt 10:24-39
- ▶ Ps 122
- ▶ Jn 17:20-26
- ▶ Ps 13
- ▶ Mt 10:40-42
- ▶ Ps 33:1-12
- ▶ Gn 18:1-5
- ▶ Mt 9:35-10:8
- ▶ Ps 86:1-10
- ▶ Ez 37:15-28
- ▶ Heb 13:1-8
- ▶ Gn 22:1-14
- ▶ Rom 6:12-23



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