



LIVING THE MISSION PRAYER


AWAKEN RISK BLESS

GATHERING AROUND THE MISSION PRAYER

An Outline

The outline below provides one way to gather using the rhythm of the mission prayer. There are many ways to use the rhythm of Awaken, Risk, and Bless in planning your time together as Christian community.


Awaken to God and One Another


 **Community Gathering:** Begin by sharing how you are coming into the experience of community. What is on your heart and mind and how is this impacting your ability to be fully present and engaged in the experience?

*Note: For larger groups consider doing this in groups of three or four. (See **Cultivating Awareness Practice** for a more detailed explanation of how to engage in this community practice.)*

End with a prayer of gratitude for thoughts expressed and unexpressed.

Risk New Questions, Conversation, and Compassionate Actions

 **Community Centering:** Move into a time of centering in the Spirit's presence. There are many simple and meaningful ways to do this including a moment of silence, various prayer forms, hymn texts, and Taizé singing. The focus of this time is to create an opening within to be receptive to the Spirit's work as you move into Community Exploration.

 **Community Exploration:** Engage in a community spiritual practice that provides opportunity to explore and apply Christ's message and mission to our lives, neighborhoods, and world today (See **Initial Practices** in the **Living the Mission Prayer as Way of Life Guide** and at www.missionalleaders.org and www.cofchrist.org/spiritualformation.) For practices that don't specifically reference scripture consider selecting a relevant scripture to use alongside the practice.



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Note: Lectionary scriptures are a good place to start, but you may also be drawn to other scripture texts that are relevant to the journey of your group. (See 24 Months of Dwelling in the Word on www.missionalleaders.org as an example.)


As you engage in a selected practice, invite your group to reflect and share their responses to the following questions:


- What did I learn as I listened and shared with others?
- How might the Spirit be inviting me to respond in compassionate action for others or the earth?

Important: Consider how you will engage children and youth in your practice. This does not need to be complicated. Simple questions, activities like drawing, or crafts that provide ways for younger people and adults to express themselves are great ways to get everyone involved.

Note: *This approach to gathering is intended to be more participative than passive. If you choose to have someone share focus thoughts or a message in place of a community practice, be sure to provide opportunity for reflection and sharing as part of that experience. Consider using the two questions above and invite the group to reflect on what they heard and how they might respond.*

Bless One Another, Our Neighborhoods, and the Earth

 **Community Generous Response:** Engage in the community practice of Disciples' Generous Response. Consider how the Spirit is inviting us to share through whole-life stewardship locally and globally in the mission of Christ today. See <https://www.cofchrist.org/disciples-generous-response-tools> for examples of how worldwide mission tithes are transforming lives around the world.

 **Community Blessing:** Bring this time of sharing together to a close by offering words of encouragement and/or challenge. Consider a closing hymn, song, or some form of prayer or blessing to send the community to become a blessing of God's love and peace in the coming week.