

## **Listening Resource**

A resource to help members listen to God as they consider the forthcoming elections for roles in the new triennium; whether God is calling them to stand and who they should vote for.

### **Time to be Still**

<sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening"'. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. <sup>10</sup>Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening'. 1 Samuel 3: 9–10

It was when Samuel was in a place of rest that God spoke to him. At the beginning of our time together let us take a moment to draw aside from the busyness of life and rest in God's presence.

**Almighty Lord, we thank you that we can dwell in your presence through the love of Christ.**

Speak to us, Lord, as we draw near to you. Still our restless thoughts and calm our active minds.

Quieten our spirits to hear your gentle voice. Open our ears to listen well; open our hearts to sense your will.

Give us your grace to heed your words and follow where you lead. Speak to us, Lord, for your servants are listening.

**Almighty Lord, we thank you that you speak to us as we are united in prayer. Amen.**

### **Time to Celebrate**

..... <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us ..... Romans 12: 5–6a

It is always good to celebrate what has been achieved together, through the grace of God. Take a few moments to remember and share highlights of the triennium.

*This may be prepared beforehand.*

Let us thank God for each other's gifts and work, used in his service.

May this give us confidence in God's continued provision as we listen to hear his plans for our future.

**We celebrate each other's gifts from God. May our appreciation of them bring praise to the Giver.**

With thanks, we celebrate each other's gifts and their significance to our lives.

We praise God for those whose skills meet a need; those whose creativity enriches us; those who impart compassion and hope.

As the body of Christ, we rejoice to combine our gifts; our own enhanced through unity with another's.

We delight in working together for the kingdom of God.

**How lavish is our God! We celebrate your generosity to us with thankful hearts. Amen.**

### **Time to listen to God through his Word**

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God'? <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40: 27–31

*or*

<sup>34</sup>As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. <sup>35</sup>When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; <sup>36</sup>send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat'. <sup>37</sup>But he answered them, 'You give them something

to eat'. They said to him, 'Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?'  
<sup>38</sup>And he said to them, 'How many loaves have you? Go and see'. When they had found out, they said, 'Five, and two fish'.  
<sup>39</sup>Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup>So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. <sup>41</sup>Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup>And all ate and were filled; <sup>43</sup>and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. <sup>44</sup>Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Mark 6: 34-44

*or another passage you feel may be appropriate for your particular setting.*

One person reads the passage out loud, slowly. Then take time to read and reflect on the passage together in silence asking God to draw our attention to words that he wants to highlight and use to speak to us. If time allows these may be shared together so we are united in listening to each other and to God.

### **Time to listen to God through Prayer**

Take a few minutes to pray and reflect in silence as individuals, asking God to continue to speak and guide our thoughts as we look to respond to his leading.

*You may wish to play music quietly in the background.*

### **Time to Give Thanks**

**Lord, thank you for your words of life which challenge and inspire us.  
Thank you for speaking to us today. Lead us forward in your will. Amen.**