

Meeting 7—Navigating Through Ministry: Preaching (Up to 90 minutes)



**women
thriving
in ministry**

AN INITIATIVE OF ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The Gathering Time—10 minutes

- As people join the meeting, welcome them and create a place of hospitality. When all have arrived, open your time in prayer, including the prayer below. The mentor could read it, or you could share your screen and invite a group member to read it. Let this prayer create the space for your group to really be present—first to God, then to themselves and finally to one another.

A Gift by Denise Levertov

Just when you seem to yourself
nothing but a flimsy web
of questions, you are given
the questions of others to hold
in the emptiness of your hands,
songbird eggs that can still hatch
if you keep them warm,
butterflies opening and closing themselves
in your cupped palms, trusting you not to injure
their scintillant fur, their dust.
You are given the questions of others
as if they were answers
to all you ask. Yes, perhaps
this gift is your answer.

Conversation Starter—5 minutes

- What was the first sermon that you ever preached?

Sharing—Preaching—50-55 minutes

Starting this month and continuing on through the next few months, we'll be sharing in a series of videos of the mentors sharing about topics that came out of our groups in January. We'll be asking everyone to watch a video (usually about 15 minutes, give or take a few minutes) and spend some time in prayerful reflection and journaling.

Two sets of videos have been filmed. You may choose to watch either set, or you may want to watch both! All videos can also be found under the “Navigating through Ministry Videos” page on the Women Thriving in Ministry website.

Set 1 - Filmed by Cohort 1 mentors, 2021

- [Navigating Through Ministry - Introduction on Vimeo](#) (7 min)
- [Navigating Through Ministry - Preaching on Vimeo](#) (21 min)

Set 2 - Filmed by Cohort 2 mentors, 2022

- [Navigating Through Ministry - Introduction & Preaching on Vimeo](#) (28 min)

After watching, please spend some time journaling or considering the following questions:

- What did you appreciate about hearing the mentors share from their experience of preaching?
- Was there anything shared that particularly resounded with your experience of preaching?
- What questions came up for you as you considered the mentors experience along with your own?
- Is there anything that came up in your reflections that you want to give further consideration to?
- Are there any action steps that you feel compelled to take in response to this reflection?

To the Mentor: Please share these questions with your mentees and ask them to watch the video and spend some time in prayerful reflection prior to your meeting. We hope that you can do the same. Mentees will share some of their reflections in 3 rounds of 3 minutes each in a Holy Listening Exercise. View the instructions on the document “Wholly, Holy Listening.” (page 4). Keep this in mind: Feel free to use silence before and after sharing rounds. For the first round, you’ll ask mentees to share about their experience or one (or more) of their intentions following their reflection. Let them know in advance that there will be no cross talking while people are sharing and to lean into good listening. Use a timer. While deeper guidance is on the document, here is what the three rounds will include:

- The first round is for sharing what has come up for them in their reflection
- The second round is for going deeper in what has come up for them OR for sharing a question that they want to ask about someone else’s sharing
- The third round is for sharing another reflection OR a gratitude for the sharing time

The final two elements of the handout include closing in prayer. We encourage inviting that during the Closing Prayer section below.

- Since we'll be repeating this practice several times, let's spend 5 minutes or so getting some feedback about it. For just a few minutes ask your group the following questions and capture their reflections to share in the next Leader's Meeting:
 - What was the experience of Holy Listening like for you?
 - Was there anything that you especially appreciated about it?
 - Was there anything that felt awkward about it?
 - Was there anything that could have enhanced the experience for you?
- Confirm your next meeting time.
- Is there anything that you've wanted to say that you've not said yet?
- In a word or phrase, what are you thinking or feeling about becoming a preacher?

Closing Prayer—5 minutes

Remind group member of the Group Commitments, one being prayer for one another. Share any updates or new prayer concerns within the group. Ask each person to pray for another person. Agree upon those people prior to praying.

Wholly, Holy LISTENING

The Art of Deep, Spiritual Listening

Adapted by Ann Starrette from a program on The Spiritual exercises of Saint Ignatius

A format for creating space and opening hearts to hear the wisdom of the Holy Spirit

SHARING: 3 minutes each (adjust time depending on number of people and time available)

FIRST ROUND: Leader begins sharing (based on the topic provided) — followed by others. Leader will keep time allowing each person 3 minutes per round as others listen without interruption.

SECOND ROUND: When all have shared, leader opens the floor again for 3 minutes to elaborate on what they have shared or comment/ask a question on another person's sharing as others listen without interruption.

THIRD ROUND: One last time, the floor is open for 3 minutes each sharing one grace received from the time together and any sense of God's invitation moving forward.

Leader invites circle members to pray a short prayer for the person on their right (either aloud or silently) — or the leader invites people to partner up and pray for each other (again, either aloud or silently).

Leader closes the Holy Listening circle, inviting all to recommit to confidentiality and accountability as we move back into the world.