

# Let's Listen & Discern



To prepare for your small group discernment experience, as you consider the question: *How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is open to conversion, renewal and reform*, your group will begin by praying with the Scriptures. Choose one of the Scripture readings below for your small group discernment experience.

## Open to conversion, renewal and reform

### John 8:2-11

Early in the morning Jesus came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, sir.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”

### 1 Peter 2:1-10

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:



Art by Ravina Waldren

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”  
To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,  
“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”  
and  
“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”  
They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.  
But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that  
you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous  
light.  
Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God’s people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

### **Matthew 11:25-30**

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”