

LISTENING PRAYER POD

NIGHT

DAY

20th - 21st November 2010



Listening Pod

Prayer is divine conversation. Prayer is when God listens and we speak, but also when we listen and God speaks. One without the other is not fully prayer. This pod gives you the opportunity to invite people to sit in stillness and invite God to speak.

Action station

To symbolically represent the holy of holies create a space in the middle of your room if possible using suspended transparent material or a gazebo with material draped so that people have to enter through a transparent veil.

An explanation of this pod's representation should be placed outside the veil. Inside Bible passages are used to communicate what this pod is about. The suggested passages are;
1 Samuel 3v1-10 and Luke 10v38-42

People are invited to listen to God for what He is saying to them, to the church and to their communities. People are invited to be still and wait on Him both at the beginning and end of their time in the prayer room, to invite God in the Spirit to lead their prayers and then also to wait for His answers and His blessing. As Jacob said when he wrestled God, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." (Genesis 32v26)

There is no suggestion of having a book to record what God is saying, but if you feel led to have one then to avoid distraction it is suggested that it is placed outside the veil (maybe it could be placed at an exit from this pod or from the prayer room itself).

What you will need:

Transparent material and/or a gazebo
A comfortable chair and some cushions
Print out of explanation for the outside of the space
Print out of the bible passages for the inside of the space

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Explanation for the outside of the space

From the very first occasions of organised worship of Yahweh it was about God communicating Himself to humankind. With the exuberance of the Tabernacle and Solomon's Temple communicating the majesty of God and the wonder of his being. Their position in the community placed God centrally in their lives – communicating His presence and His desire to be with His people.

Both the Tabernacle and the Temple contained within the Holy of Holies that was set apart from the people by a curtain and only the High Priest could enter one day a year. At Jesus' death the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom (Matthew 27v50-51) and access was available to all to speak and petition God directly and also to hear from Him.

This is to be a place to hear from God, without any activities or creative prayer materials - a place of stillness before God that is open to all.

You are invited to listen to God for what He is saying to you, to the church and to the communities you are part of. Be still and wait on Him (it may be helpful to do this both at the beginning and end of your time in the prayer room, to invite God in the Spirit to lead your prayers and then also to wait for His answers and His blessing. As Jacob said when he wrestled God, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." Genesis 32v26).

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1 Samuel 3v1-10

¹ The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ **Then the LORD called Samuel.**

Samuel answered, "Here I am." ⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

⁶ **Again the LORD called, "Samuel!"** And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸ **The LORD called Samuel** a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that **the LORD was calling** the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, **'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'**" ¹⁰ So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ **The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"**

Then Samuel said, **"Speak, for your servant is listening."**

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Luke 10v38-42

³⁸As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹She had a sister called **Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet**

listening to what he said. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, **don't you care** that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

⁴¹"**Martha, Martha,**" the Lord answered, "**you are worried and upset about many things,** ⁴²**but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better,** and it will not be taken away from her."