

## Sample Reflection

### Gather

#### Opening prayer

Prayer of Invocation to the Holy Spirit ([Synod prayer](#)):  
*Adsumus Sancte Spiritus ('We Stand Before You Holy Spirit')*

#### Conversation-starter

[3min video clip](#): Without difference we die. Timothy Radcliffe OP: 'Life and fertility depend on difference, and without it we are dead.'

Pair-share: Share a brief response with the person next to you.

Alternative 'conversation starters' - see CRA Resource Sheet IV.

### Introduction

#### Brief presentation (to provide context)

- Overview of the Synodal Journey. Refer to 'Overview' in CRA introductory document.
- Key words: *Communion, Participation, Mission*. Refer to CRA Resource Sheet II.

Invite comments, questions

### Deep listening

#### Break open the word of God\*

Reflect together on a Scripture passage that can lead you into the biblical depths of what it means to be a 'synodal' Church. Some suggestions from the *Preparatory Document* follow:

Mk 10:46-52 (Jesus' response to Bartimaeus); Lk 24:13-35 (Road to Emmaus); Jn 3:8 (the Spirit is like the wind that blows where it will); Jn 14:17 (listening to the 'Spirit of truth', cf. Jn 14:25-26; 15:26-27; 16:12-15); Mt 15:21-28 (Jesus interacts with the Canaanite woman); Jn 4:1-42 (Jesus with the woman at the well); Acts 10 (Peter and Cornelius).

Explore the text together with the aid of a good commentary and/or a prayerful process such as *Lectio Divina* or Imaginative Contemplation, perhaps one connected with your charism.

Invite sharings, insights, experiences, reflections, questions.

### Reflect on the synod question

In the light of the living word of God, we ask ourselves:

- How do I/we live synodality?
- How might this lived experience 'speak' to the wider Church and human family?

Pool your insights, reflections, stories, questions, sharings.

### Going forward

What response do I/we feel moved to make?

- Through the written word; or by audio/video; a scholarly/artistic/pastoral contribution; etc.
- Is there a way to seek out the contributions of others with whom we live, work, minister?

To what action do I commit? By when will I get it done?

### Give thanks

Closing prayer/song

#### Additional links and reference points for leader/facilitator:

- The Fundamental Question, [Preparatory Document](#), p.30.
- Further [tools](#) for reflecting on synodality (1½ pages).
- 'Listening to the Scriptures', [Preparatory Document](#) nos.16-24; pp.19-27. Summarised in Resource VII. Find this and more resources on the [CRA website](#).