



This journal is brought to you by LEAD.
It includes prompts and space to reflect on
listening to God through:

- ⊕ Point of view
- ⊕ Scripture and prayer
- ⊕ Congregation
- ⊕ Neighborhood

Learn more about tuning in at waytolead.org.



LISTEN

...with all your heart

A personal pilgrimage following
Jesus through intentional listening



JOURNAL

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Edited by
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LISTEN WITH ALL YOUR HEART

A journal to accompany the Tune In process for leaders who want to follow the Holy Spirit into the world.

Brought to you by LEAD
Living every day as disciples

This is our watch and leadership makes all the difference.

You and I are called to lead the Christian movement forward in our own small way—rethinking worn paths and discovering new trails.

LEAD has identified four Growth Indicators as vital behaviors for leaders. While there are many things leaders can do, LEAD's research has discovered some specific behaviors with the power to shape and grow both personal faith and congregations. These behaviors can effectively shift the mindset of leaders and prepare faith communities for leadership in a changing world.

This is different from the usual process of setting goals or identifying outcomes. These vital behaviors produce results that are contextually relevant based on leadership and location. By practicing these four behaviors, leaders will embark on a faith pilgrimage toward a future we are unable to fully imagine right now.

LEAD believes everyone and every congregation can grow. Growth is a choice that recognizes Christian leadership is really discipleship, with leaders growing other leaders. Our research indicates that the difference between growing and stalled leaders and faith communities rests in how these Growth Indicators are expressed in behaviors.

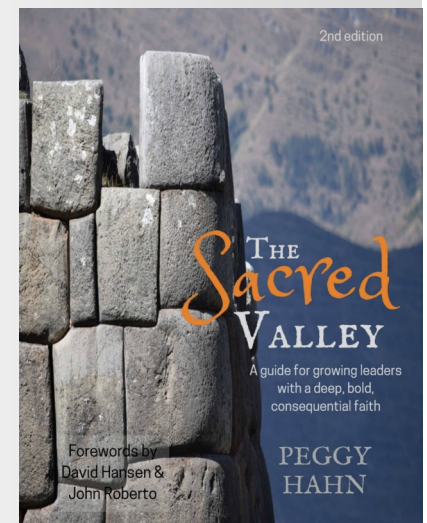
NOTES

These specific adaptive practices will help leaders shape the path from a beloved church in decline to one with renewed deep, bold, consequential faith growing out of the waters of baptism. The Growth Indicators as vital behaviors are:

Listen
Center
Explore
Connect

This *Listen...with All Your Heart Journal* is part of an overall strategy to help leaders Tune In to what God is already doing in their own lives, in their congregations, and in their neighborhoods or communities.

As an organization, LEAD is prepared to accompany leaders through this process. For more information on the four Growth Indicators or to learn more about the changing landscape of leadership, we recommend reading *The Sacred Valley*, a guide for growing leaders with a deep, bold, consequential faith by Peggy Hahn.



LISTEN...

with all your heart

For people who are choosing to grow, each step in this journal will nudge, push, challenge, and encourage you to listen more carefully to God speaking to you through others. Think of this as a pilgrimage—a sacred journey.

This journal can be used on its own or as part of the Tune In Process. We know most people are too busy to write in a journal every day. We also know that people who want to grow deeper in their faith will make time to process their feelings in conversation, on social media, digitally, or on paper because that is how they will make meaning of what they experience.

The questions in this guide are prompts to help you clarify your own experiences. Use them in the way that works best for you...writing, drawing, doodling, singing, chanting...all are responses to the Spirit's lead. Know that the more committed you are to this process, the more tuned in you will become to God moving in your own life and the lives of others.

Buen Camino! Good Journey!



The Tune In Process...

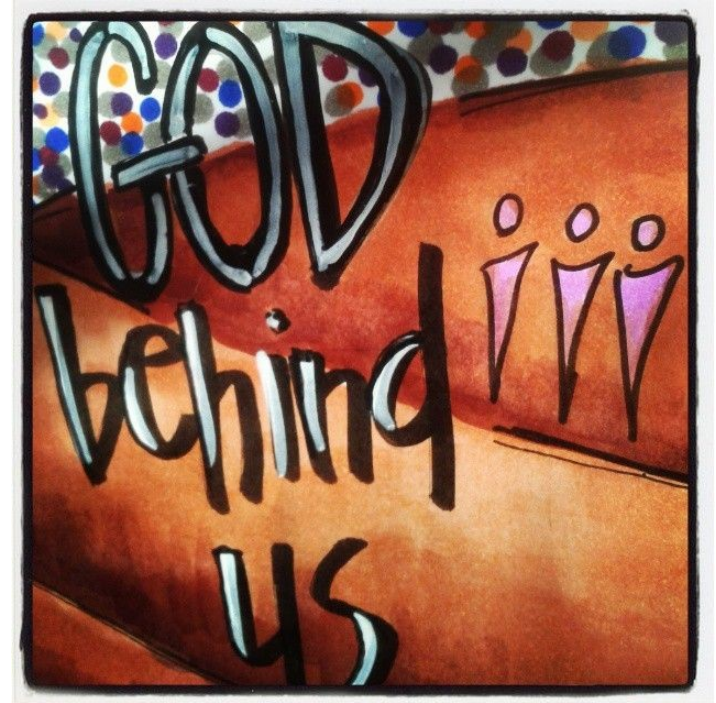
This journal is designed for the spiritual pilgrimage of listening to God in scripture, in your faith community, and in your neighborhood.

The ten steps of the Tune In process are a rhythm of movement and rest for the purpose of growing congregational leaders into mission. Following the movement of the Holy Spirit is an act of discernment and often involves sacrifice. Those on the journey are encouraged to remember the saints that have come before them—and those that will follow.

More information on this process can be found at waytolead.org.

Love God with all
your heart, with
all your soul, with
all your mind, and
with all your
strength...and
your neighbor
as yourself.

Mark 12:30



GOD BEHIND US

We each have a Sacred Story that is shaped by God moving through our life experiences. The joys, pains, and sorrows of your life; the people you encounter and that encounter you; the places and cultures where you were born, live and grow; and your response to all of this makes your story unique. There is no one on the planet with exactly your story. It is your own God-given version of life.

Your story influences your particular point of view. It is the way you understand what is going on around you. You can think about this as your own interpretation of reality because we each look at life through the lens of our own story.



Not only do you have a story but your story also has you! Your point of view is only one angle of vision. Your interpretation of reality. No more right or wrong than someone else's—just more familiar to you because it is part of your very being. Yet your story doesn't have to stop there. You have the capacity to engage another person's story. More than that, you can be influenced by their story so that your story is shaped, maybe even shared mutually and re-formed. This happens all the time without you even noticing these shapers—through media, friends and family, just to name a few.

You can seek out ways to expand your story or you can avoid being influenced by others. You do this all the time when you welcome new people (friends, co-workers) or when you discount people who are undesirable for some reason (people you'd rather not know) based on your willingness to risk knowing someone with a very different story.

This *Listen... with All Your Heart Journal* is an invitation to grow your Sacred Story. To acknowledge your starting place and prepare to learn from people you might otherwise avoid or ignore. This is an intentional process of moving from where you are right now to a wider story. It is a willingness to be open to God moving not just in your own life but in the lives of others. To find a larger view of reality.

I AM HOPEFUL ABOUT MY
CONGREGATION AND THE
NEIGHBORHOOD WHEN:

Loving God with all your strength...



I CAN SEE THE COMMUNITY
NETWORKING TOGETHER TO:

POINT OF VIEW

We live in a fast-changing world. Adaptive challenges are all around us. These are times when we have to learn new skills, habits and attitudes even when we would rather not!

Adaptive changes are needed when what you have been doing is no longer working. When it's clear you can't keep doing the same old thing yet you aren't sure what to do next. You realize that if you want to move forward it will take experiment and taking a chance on a new idea.

WHERE DO YOU FIND YOURSELF ENCOUNTERING
ADAPTIVE CHALLENGES RIGHT NOW?



LISTENING IS MORE THAN HEARING.

Hearing is an auditory response to a sound moving through your ears.

It is the ability to perceive

sound—but listening is so much more. When you listen, you learn what is being said and what is not being said. You notice body language, context, and inflections that might be missed if you are less than fully present.

Regardless of our best attempts at listening, we all listen through our own filters. Formed through your own experiences, you unconsciously apply them to all you hear. Filters can work for you or against you but either way, they prevent you from truly listening. An awareness of these filters makes you more able to set them aside when listening to others.

There are many different types of listening. Take a look at the twelve types listed to the right. Which types sound most like your default style of listening? Put a check in those boxes.

These journal prompts are designed to help you become aware of your own filters. Taking time to reflect on these prompts can help you increase your capacity to listen with greater self-awareness, opening yourself up to meet God in others.

I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT THE
COMMUNITY NEEDS:

Loving God with all your mind...



I'M THINKING THAT THE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSETS ARE:

POINT OF VIEW

Type of Listening	Description
Active listening	Listening in a way that demonstrates interest and encourages continued speaking.
Appreciative listening	Looking for ways to accept and appreciate the other person through what they say.
Biased listening	Listening through the filter of personal bias.
Critical listening	Listening in order to evaluate, criticize, or otherwise pass judgment on what someone
Deep listening	Seeking to understand the person, their personality, and their real and unspoken
Dialogic listening	Finding meaning through conversational exchange, asking for clarity, and testing
False listening	Pretending to listen but actually spending
Initial listening	Listening at first then thinking about a
Partial listening	Listening most of the time but also spending some time day-dreaming or
Reflective listening	Listening, then reflecting back to the other
Sympathetic listening	Listening with concern for the well-being of

Loving God with all your heart...

THESE EXPERIENCES (JOYS AND PAINS) HAVE SHAPED MY PERSPECTIVE:

I SEE GOD IN THESE PLACES IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD:

Loving God with all your soul...



Loving God with all your soul...

I FEEL A NEED TO PRAY FOR MY
COMMUNITY BECAUSE:

I AM DEEPLY PASSIONATE ABOUT:

Loving God with all your heart...



Loving God with all your soul...

MY IMAGE OF JESUS IS:

I AM CURIOUS ABOUT THESE THINGS IN
MY COMMUNITY:

Loving God with all your heart...



Loving God with all your heart...

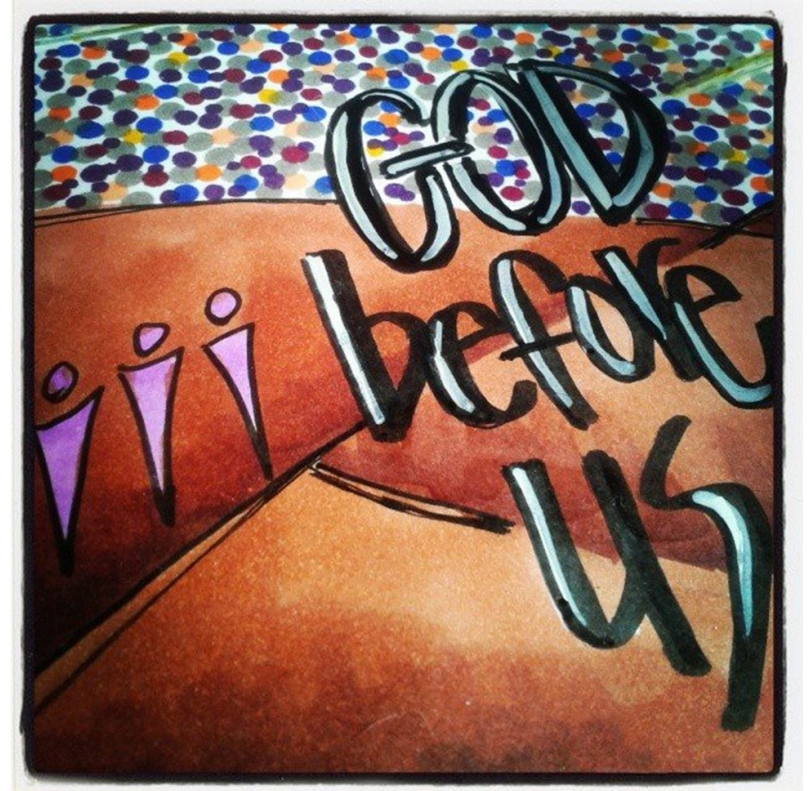
MY GUT FEELING ABOUT THE
NEIGHBORHOOD IS:

I FEEL RESTORED BY GOD WHEN I:

Loving God with all your soul...



CONFESSING MY PREJUDICES AND
BIASES MEANS ACKNOWLEDGING:



GOD BEFORE US

Everyone has a story—but unless they have someone who listens it will be unknown. The sacred work of listening to strangers is an immersion in humility. It is a recognition that God is already doing something in their lives (even if they don't realize it) and you get a peek. When you listen, you give away part of yourself as you are shaped by what is heard.

Listening to people you don't know feels like a risk but the greater risk is to not listen and miss the chance to discover new truths. By listening to another's perspective, you can see a larger view of God.

LISTEN...

with all your heart

God's out of the box—loose in the world, leading God's people like God always has. We can count on this.

When you listen to God through the voices of strangers, you will find a wider view.

You will offer:

Gratitude—that someone really listens.

Partnership—that none of us are alone.

Hope—that new things can happen.

You will receive:

Honor—as you hold the stories of others.

Respect—as you put your faith into action.

Confidence—as you take one step at a time.

And this is on the first date. Imagine what will happen on the second date when you begin to work together. Then comes the third date where trust begins to grow. This three-date process makes all the difference in community-congregation partnerships.

MY WORLDVIEW IS SHAPED BY:

Loving God with all your mind...



Loving God with all your strength...

I AM MOST FEARFUL OF:

HOSPITALITY THAT MATTERS TO ME
LOOKS LIKE:

Loving God with all your strength...



Loving God with all your strength...

I AM ENCOURAGED BY:

I CAN'T IMAGINE LIVING WITH
(OR WITHOUT):

Loving God with all your strength...



LISTEN...

with all your heart

Spiritual practices wake us up to what God is already doing. You can draw on ancient practices—or you can come up with new ways of discovering how God is speaking into your life.

Christians across time have used these faith practices to experience the Holy Spirit moving:

- Invite
- Encourage
- Worship
- Prayer
- Study
- Service
- Give

Because today these practices may happen face to face, digitally or through social media, there are even more opportunities to tune into God's activity in your life.

I AM WONDERING:

Loving God with all your mind...



THESE THOUGHTS CHALLENGE
MY FAITH:



GOD BELOW US

Bible stories invite us into an unchanging God loose in a changing world. The more you know about the backstory of Bible stories, the more you can grasp the original meaning as you apply that meaning to your own life. Contextualizing scripture matters. This step in the Tune In process is a chance to re-enter the ancient Roman Empire, to understand a little about what it meant to be part of a Christian Jewish community. The radicalness of the early Christians and the Jesus followers is lost if we don't look at the context and realize what that these first Christians had at stake when they accepted the call to follow Jesus. As you engage the texts in the book of Acts, you are encouraged to imagine yourself moving back in time in Peter's vision (Acts 10), Phillip's encounter (Acts 8), and more.

Loving God with all your heart...

I FEEL LIKE I AM LIVING INTO GOD'S
VISION FOR THE CHURCH THAT I FIND
IN SCRIPTURE WHEN I:

THE FAITH PRACTICES THAT WORK
FOR ME ARE:

Loving God with all your soul...



Loving God with all your soul...

WORSHIP IN MY CONGREGATION IS:

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE LOOKS LIKE:

Loving God with all your heart...



Loving God with all your soul...

MY PRAYER LIFE IS:

I AM BOTHERED BY MY CONGREGATION
BECAUSE:

Loving God with all your heart...



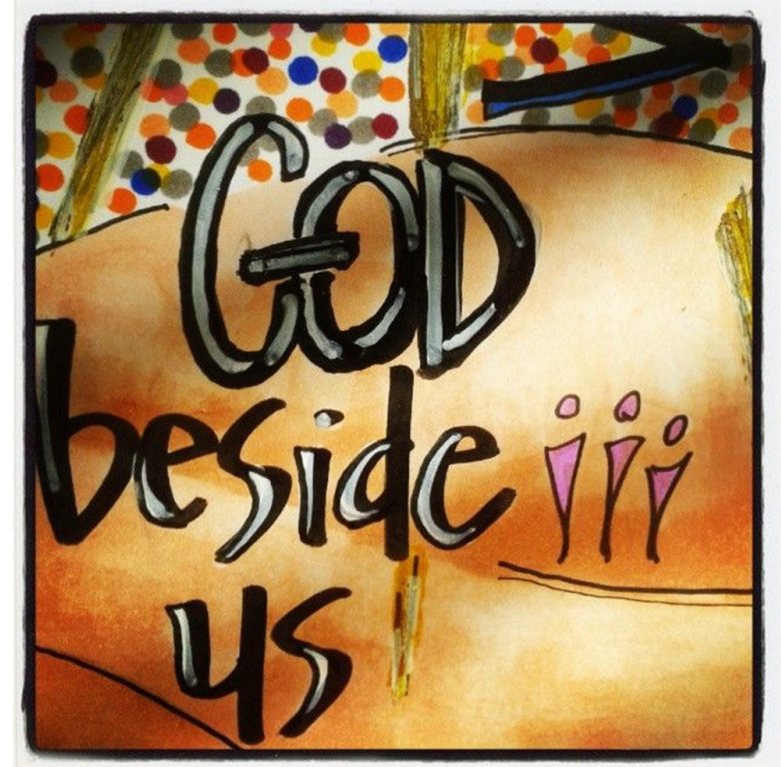
Loving God with all your heart...

I LOVE MY CONGREGATION BECAUSE:

I SEE GOD IN:

Loving God with all your soul....





GOD BESIDE US

We come together to worship, share the sacraments, and live out our faith. Sometimes relationships are deep and strong, almost family-like, other times they are “Sunday” relationships, superficial, if you are honest. Yet you are the congregation God has gathered together in this place and time.

Listening into the congregation matters. By using the Congregational Assessment, Surveys, and Focus Groups, themes will emerge as you discern where God is calling this community into mission. What story is emerging?

LISTEN...

with all your heart

If your congregation disappeared tomorrow, what would the neighbors miss?

You might ask yourself—why do I care what the neighbors think? What about the members?

It's hard to look at scripture, at Jesus' life, without realizing your baptism calls you out of yourself. It's hard to be a baptizing community that is disconnected from the place it is planted. It's hard to connect to a community you do not know. It's hard to know a community very different from ourselves—language, culture, needs, gifts...

Before we realize it, the congregation becomes the community. There are enough needs inside the congregation to keep people busy. Yet the congregation itches to make a difference—baptism draws us out. When we move outward, the neighborhood is moving in—and some things need to change, but it's okay. Mostly. Because it's what we do when we follow Jesus, especially if we want more people to share in our faith story.

GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS TIL THE END OF THE AGES. —MATHEW 28:19

I KNOW I AM GROWING IN MY
UNDERSTANDING OF GOD WHEN:

Loving God with all your mind...



Loving God with all your strength...

I AM CONNECTED TO PEOPLE WHO
CAN HELP ME INTERPRET SCRIPTURE
WHEN I:

MY NATURAL GOD-GIVEN WAY OF
SERVING OTHERS IS:

Loving God with all your strength...

