

Listening to God speaking through Scripture

Having heard both passages read, choose the one that draws you and spend time with it



Read slowly through the passage.

- Wherever it is appropriate let your name enter the text. Let yourself dwell on each phrase – hearing them said personally to you from God. i.e. When Ann was a child, I loved her and I called her my daughter.
- Take time with each line, let the imagery and the sense of them sink in. You don't have to get to the end. If a word or phrase or line seems significant stay with it, as long as feels appropriate, then move on when you are ready.

Afterwards

- Stop and reflect on the experience:
- What were the words, phrases and lines that touched you?
- What effect did they have on you?
- Notice the effect of the whole exercise on you.
- Spend some time responding to God.

It may be helpful to make some notes about your experience – describing it and its effect upon you.

Hosea 11:1-4

When ... was a child, I loved him/her
And I called my *son/daughter*
I myself, taught ... to walk
I myself took *him/her* up in my arms
but *he/she* did not know that I was the one caring for him/her
that I was leading *him/her* with cords of human kindness
with leading bands of love
that with *him/her* I was like someone lifting an infant to his
cheek
and that I bent down to feed *him/her*.

Isaiah 43. 1-2

But now, this is the word of the Lord to you
The word of your Creator, of the One who fashioned you...
Have no fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name...
You are mine...
When you pass through waters,
I shall be with you
When you pass through rivers,
they will not overwhelm you
When you walk through fire,
you will not be scorched
Flames will not burn you.
I am the Lord your God, the Holy One, your deliverer...
You are precious in my sight, and honoured
And I love you.