



WELCOME

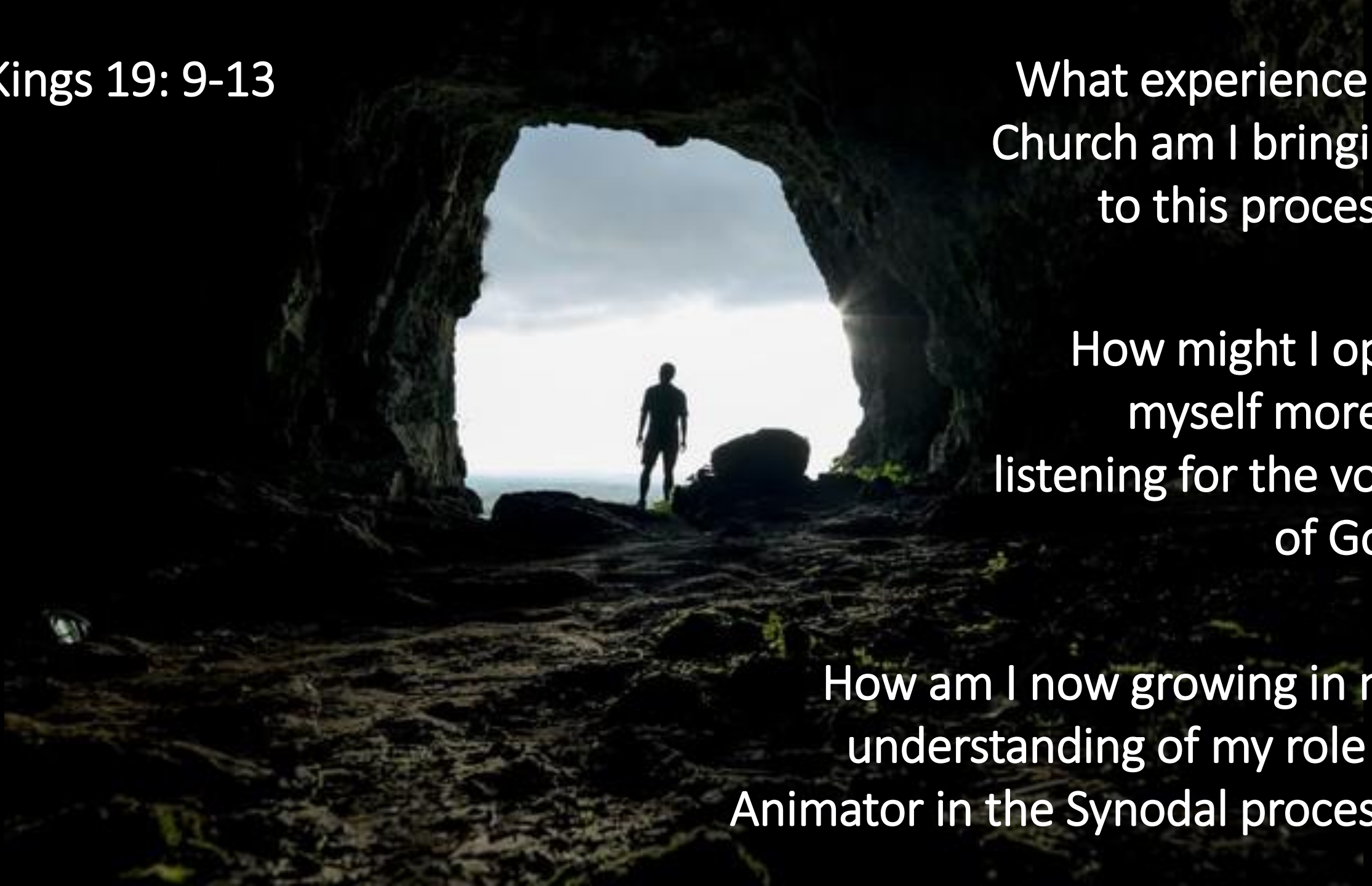
Training for Parish Animators Session 2

1 Kings 19: 9-13

What experience of
Church am I bringing
to this process?

How might I open
myself more to
listening for the voice
of God?

How am I now growing in my
understanding of my role as
Animator in the Synodal process?



SYNOD PRAYER

We stand before you, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence
our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,
In the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.

Amen

OUTLINE of EVENING

PART 1

Speakers for this evening from the Synodal Committee

- Overview of First Training Evening
- Clarification of Some Issues Raised
- Preparing Small Group Leaders - Including the role of Listening

PART 2

- Suggested Outline for a Second Parish Gathering
- Collating the Small Group Feedback
- Next Steps



Overview of First Training Evening

All information is available on the Dublin Diocesan website at <https://dublindiocese.ie/synod/>

Synod Logo

“We are all in the same boat” – <https://dublindiocese.ie/simple-synod-resource/> Page 1

Synods and Synodal Pathway/Process

Background <https://dublindiocese.ie/simple-synod-resource/> Page 4

Video https://youtu.be/NZCY_zfjT6M

Synodality and the Synodal Process <https://dublindiocese.ie/simple-synod-resource/>
Pages 7-10

Video 2 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSS15_F3e1U

Videos - There are 5 small “bite-size” videos available at <https://dublindiocese.ie/simple-synod-resource/>

Animator role – Description available at <https://dublindiocese.ie/synodal-pathway-local-animators-role-description/>



Clarification of Some Issues Raised

Reaching Out

See [https://dublindiocese.ie/simply-synod-resource/Page 14](https://dublindiocese.ie/simply-synod-resource/Page%2014)

Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6LRghnDoqM>

What are we inviting people to?

Resource: Invitation/Information Sheet will be provided by the Synod Committee which you can amend as necessary

- Will include an overview of the process - What the gathering is/is not
- Appropriate sharing * (See next slide)
- Listening to each other

Issue to Parishioners – ask them to promote to family members and friends

Invite people to avail of this before attending

Hand it out to participants on way in to gathering and remind them at the start of the evening

Possible Venues

Some suggestions in Video 4 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6LRghnDoqM>



Appropriate Sharing in a Public Forum

Advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding and Child Protection Service:

Public meetings are not a suitable venue for people to disclose personal or family experiences of abuse.

When people are expressing opinions on the topic of abuse within the Church, they should bear in mind that this has impacted on the lives of many, some of whom may be present at the meeting they are addressing.



Identifying and Preparing Small Group Leaders

This is not just your responsibility – PPC and Parish Team must be involved in identifying these people

PPC members and ministry group members may be ideal for this role

See also Symply Synod Resource Page 11 “Seven Dispositions that will help us to fully participate.”

These dispositions could help identify people who would be good small group leaders.



In preparing the Small Group Leaders:

You will need to give them some preparation and awareness of the Synod overall

Give them the information you have received in your training and familiarise them with the Synod process

Go through the Simply Synod Resource and the Videos with them, especially the Listening information in Symply Synod Resource Pages 15 -16 and the video on Listening

(Video 4 – Second Half)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6LRghnDoqM>

Identifying and Preparing Small Group Leaders cont.

The Synod Committee will provide a resource outlining the role of the small group leader including:

- Setting ground rules and expectations at the start of the small group sharing i.e.
 - This gathering is a safe place to talk — we will treat each other and what anyone says with reverence and respect.
 - One person speaks at a time.
 - We limit how long we speak so that everyone has time to share.
 - We only speak once until everyone has had an opportunity to share.
 - We all will listen with an open mind.
 - We will be stopping the conversation at certain intervals to reflect and hold the silence
 - We will be reporting the themes and experiences to the parish and the diocese as they emerge from the sharing without indicating the names of individual participants.
 - As participants, if we tell others of our experience of the gathering afterwards, we will be careful not to mention people's names

During the sharing the small group leader will also:

- Manage the time so everyone gets a chance to speak
- Gently redirect a speaker who gets off topic or goes over their time.

BREAK OUT ROOMS

- What stays with you from what you have heard?
- What have you found helpful?

This is a good opportunity to listen well to each other!

TIME: 15mins



CHAT FUNCTION

Insights/Comments/Questions
FIVE MINUTES





Part 2

Suggested Outline for a Second Parish Gathering

BREAK OUT ROOMS (after presentation on 2nd Parish Gathering)

- What have you found helpful?
- What thoughts/comments/questions are arising?

This is a good opportunity to listen well to each other!

TIME: 15mins



CHAT FUNCTION

Insights/Comments/Questions
FIVE MINUTES



Collating the responses

The task is to draw together the similarities; it is not a filtering out of ideas but a synthesis of ideas emerging.

Animators/group will collect the Post It notes. They will read through the responses looking for themes that emerge.

In the first instance they will look for themes that have a “loud voice”. This is called **CONVERGENCE**

Eg. If 24 voices in the group are saying they miss the presence of Young people in church, then this is a loud voice - this is a CONVERGING Theme

Those who have expressed ideas that are a quieter voice will also be noted. This is called **DIVERGENCE**

Eg. If 2 voices say that we should come to Church on bikes, then this is a quieter voice – this is a Diverging Theme.

There will be a format for sharing the Convergence and Divergence for each of the four questions in the Report – you will get a copy of this before the extra meeting on collating (below)

There will be more detailed sessions of 45 minutes about collating for Animators in the week beginning the 4th April (On the Tues and Weds - 2 sessions per evening).

Next Steps

Meet with Parish Team/PPC and share the format of the Gatherings

- Plan together – dates, venues, identify possible small group leaders, resources needed
- Refer PPC/Parish Team to the Resources – Simply Synod and the Videos

Raise awareness of the Synod in the parish – speaking at Mass, Parish Newsletter, social media, create a space in church etc

Meet with small group leaders and explore their role using the resources already given

Issue invitations to the Gatherings

We offer:

Synod Support Sessions (SSS)

Ongoing support evenings Tues in February from 7.30-8.30pm

