



**Time of Listening | The Salvation Army Australia
Call to Prayer and Discernment
Saturday October 7 2023**

We invite you into a time of listening with us. Wherever you are, we invite you to listen to God and seek God's heart for how to approach The Voice Referendum.

The first voice we should listen to is God's voice. This is a weighty decision that impacts our nation of Australia and her First Nations peoples. The Voice is an invitation to listen to and be informed by the lived experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as they shape policies and laws that will make a meaningful difference to their lives and the lives of future generations.

We want to listen well – to God and each other – as we seek to do good. We have prepared this simple spiritual reflection practice structured around discernment and encounter: **L.I.S.T.E.N (Location, Intention, Scripture, Tune-in, Examine, Now, go!).**

L – Location/On Country

Listening requires us to stop, tune in and be still. Let us begin this time of listening by placing Jesus purposefully at the centre. Let us find a location to still our minds, bodies, and spirits in readiness for listening.

- Be seated: Find a place where you can look at or be surrounded by nature.
- Listen: For the birds, sounds, winds, insects. Picture the Genesis 1 creation story.
- Look: How can you find God here, in the heartbeat or the movement of country?
- Touch: What can you see? What can you feel? What can you hear?
- Breathe: Let your mind be calm and prepare to encounter God.

I – Intention

As we move through this process of listening and discerning, we must stay focused on God's character and God's response to injustice. We will be at peace and find rest for our soul if we seek – to the best of our ability – to follow what we believe we hear God saying.

“This is what the LORD says: ‘Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls’”
(Jeremiah 6:16, NIV).



‘DEEP LISTENING MEANS TO HEAR EVERY DIMENSION OF THE OTHER PERSON, BOTH WHAT IS SAID, AS WELL AS WHAT IS IMPLIED. IT MEANS TO HEAR THE WORDS, AND THE EMOTIONS UNDERNEATH AND TO HEAR THE GENERAL DISPOSITION AND MOOD OF THE PERSON – TO HEAR ALL OF IT’ – STEFANIE ZEEP



S – Scripture

“Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don’t try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God’s voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he’s the one who will keep you on track. Don’t assume that you know it all. Run to God!”
(Proverbs 3:5, The Message).

Soak in this scripture verse. Read it multiple times, whisper, think or sing it!
Whatever you do, find a way to let it settle into your mind and read you.

T – Tune-in

Aboriginal Elder Aunty Miriam Rose Ungunmerr offers a unique gift from her people, the reality of *dadirri*. Dadirri is a practice of inner, deep listening and quiet; still awareness. It recognises the wellspring that is inside us. We call on Holy Spirit, and Holy Spirit calls on us. This is where we recognise and experience God’s presence. Let us deeply listen to God’s voice. What is God asking of you?

Try this: *Binungal* is a concept meaning ‘three ways to hear’ represented by three circles. This listening addresses all aspects of a whole person in body, mind and spirit:

- What you physically hear (*outside circle*)
- What comes into your head/mind (*moiyeen*), self-talk, and ideas (*middle circle*)
- What comes into your spirit/heart/stomach, a sense of discernment (*inside circle*)

E – Examine

God, we now turn our hearts to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of our nation. Close your eyes and imagine how God wants Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to flourish today.

- What does it look like? Who is there? How are they feeling?
- How might a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ vote move us closer to or further from that vision?
- What do you hear God speak over our First Nations community as a blessing?
- How does this process promote peace for your soul?

“But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”
(Amos 5:24, NIV).

N – Now, go!

We trust God, described in the Bible as Elohim, the Mighty One. Let us go in peace.
“Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say” (Exodus 4:12, NIV).

THIS REFLECTION RESOURCE WAS PREPARED FOR THE SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIA BY SHIRLI ONGOO (KABI KABI AND SOUTHSEA ISLANDER WOMAN | GENERAL MANAGER, ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER TEAM), TAHANA TURNER (PROUD BUNDJALUNG WOMAN OF THE OODJINGBURRA (LAN FROM BOONINGBAH (FINGAL HEAD) | ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER TEAM), AUX. LT. ROSY KEANE (NATIONAL SPIRITUAL LIFE SECRETARY), WITH ARTWORK BY ISABELL WITTINGSLOW (MEDIUM: WOOD CARVING PRINT ON PAPER | MARYBOROUGH SALVOS).