

# WORKSHEET FOR USING THE DIALOGICAL LENS \* Leah D. Schade, lshade@lextheo.edu

**Text:** \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>1. Point out the dialogical aspects of the passage.</b> In broad terms, describe how this passage of the Bible is an instance of conversation, dialogue, or some other kind of interchange.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Presumed author, and intended audience?</li><li>B. Social, cultural, and political forces either in the background or directly present in the passage?</li><li>C. Other books or authors in the Bible implicitly in conversation with this text or author?</li><li>D. Characters? Who speaks? Who is in the background? Who is in the scene but silent?</li></ul>	
<p><b>2. Determine what's at stake.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Presenting issue? What does each of them want?</li><li>B. Fears or concerns of the author, the audience, or the characters? What are they afraid of losing? What or who is threatening to them?</li><li>C. Overt or underlying tensions or conflicts?</li></ul>	
<p><b>3. Identify the values.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. What is important to author/audience/characters? What do they cherish and hold dear?</li><li>B. What is their "best self" that could emerge?</li><li>C. Where do values overlap, points of commonality? What desires, fears, and values do the characters or figures share?</li><li>D. Where are there gaps? What are the things the dialogue partners are unlikely to agree upon?</li></ul>	

**4. Explain how God, Jesus, and/or the Holy Spirit is active.**

- A. What is God doing in the midst of this interchange?
- B. Is God's action explicit, implicit, or apparently absent?
- C. How is the larger community wrestling with or expressing their faith in God?

**5. Recognize what the dialogue is teaching us.**

- A. What is this exchange, dialogue, or conversation teaching us about what it means to be church in the midst of contentious public issues?
- B. What can we learn about being faithful people who engage the conflicts and sin of the world, while maintaining the commitment to grace, hope, and love?
- C. What can we determine about who God is, what God does, and what God intends for us based on this interchange and dialogue in the passage?

**6. Suggest possible next steps.**

- A. Next steps we might take based on what this biblical passage models for us?
- B. Public concerns God is inviting us to engage? Are we being invited into dialogue with each other, with this passage, and with God about specific justice issues?
- C. Are we learning what *not* to do based on what we see in this text?
- D. Common values we share that can be the basis for our response to a societal matter?
- E. What kind of church shall we be, knowing what the Bible models for us, and knowing what challenges our community is facing?