DISCERNING TOGETHER

How do we recognise what God is Doing?

Tihomir Lazic

FOR THE NEXT 90 MINUTES,
WE WILL NOT TALK ABOUT
COMMUNAL DISCERNMENT.

WE WILL PRACTISE IT.



WELCOME TO

DISCERNMENT LAB

NOT EVERY CONVERSATION IS DISCERNMENT

DEBATE

Who is right?

DISCUSSION

What do we think?

DISCERNMENT

What are we noticing together—and how might God be calling us to respond?



FOR THIS CONVERSATION…

SPEAK FROM EXPERIENCE.
LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND, NOT TO ANSWER.
EVERYONE SPEAKS ONCE BEFORE ANYONE SPEAKS TWICE.
STAY CURIOUS WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER DIFFERENCE.
DO NOT RUSH TOWARD AGREEMENT.

THE MOVEMENT OF DISCERNMENT

NOTICE	LISTEN	DISCERN	RESPOND
I SEE	I HEAR YOU	WE SEE	WE ACT



WHERE DO WE SEE SIGNS OF GOD AT WORK IN POLAND TODAY?

AND WHAT MIGHT GOD BE INVITING US INTO?

FIRST: DO NOT TALK.

TWO MINUTES OF SILENCE.

WHERE HAVE I ACTUALLY ENCOUNTERED SOMETHING THAT MIGHT BE A SIGN OF GOD AT WORK?

See if you can think of one concrete experience.

A person · an encounter · a change · a tension · an unexpected opening

ROUND 1 · NOTICE

WHAT HAVE I SEEN THAT PERHAPS WE SHOULD PAY ATTENTION TO?

60–90 SECONDS EACH.

No responses. No questions. No correction.

EVERYONE SPEAKS ONCE BEFORE ANYONE SPEAKS TWICE.

ROUND 2 · LISTEN

WHAT DID I HEAR FROM SOMEONE ELSE THAT WE NEED TO PAY ATTENTION TO?

You may not simply repeat your own contribution

LISTEN FOR

Surprise · resonance · challenge · difference

ROUND 3 · DISCERN

WHAT SEEMS TO BE EMERGING AMONG US?

WHERE IS THERE RESONANCE—AND WHAT DOES NOT FIT?

WHAT ARE WE STILL UNSURE ABOUT?

WHAT MIGHT THIS INVITE US TO TRY, TEST, OR EXPLORE?

ROUND 4 · RESPOND

WHAT MIGHT THIS INVITE US TO DO?

What faithful next step might we take?

WHERE DO WE SEE SIGNS OF GOD AT WORK IN POLAND TODAY?

AND WHAT MIGHT GOD BE INVITING US INTO?

ONE SHEET PER GROUP.

WE NOTICE…

Patterns · resonances · signs

WE ARE STILL WONDERING…

Questions · tensions · differences

WE MAY BE INVITED TO…

Possibilities · experiments · next steps

NOW: LISTEN ACROSS THE ROOM

WHAT ARE WE NOTICING?

WHAT ARE WE STILL WONDERING?

WHAT MIGHT WE BE INVITED TO?

WHAT DOES NOT FIT?

NOW STEP OUTSIDE THE EXPERIENCE.

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

WHAT MADE THIS DIFFERENT FROM AN ORDINARY CHURCH MEETING?

SPACE

PEOPLE

PRACTICE

1. WHERE DOES COMMUNAL DISCERNMENT ACTUALLY HAPPEN AMONG US?
Where do we have genuine spaces to seek truth together—not merely debate, report, or make decisions?

2. WHO NEEDS TO BE IN THE ROOM?
Which voices, experiences, or perspectives are missing from the way we currently discern?

3. **WHAT COULD WE DO DIFFERENTLY?**
What concrete practices, structures, or habits could help us listen across difference and discern together more faithfully?

THE LOGIC OF DISCERNMENT

NOTICE What am I noticing?

↓

LISTEN What am I hearing from others?

↓

DISCERN What seems to be emerging among us?

↓

RESPOND What faithful next step might this invite?

TRY THIS IN YOUR CHURCH.

CHOOSE ONE REAL QUESTION.

The answer is not already predetermined.

INVITE 5–7 PEOPLE.

Include someone you would not normally invite.

BEGIN WITH SILENCE + EXPERIENCE.

Everyone speaks once before anyone speaks twice.

ASK WHAT THEY HEARD FROM SOMEONE ELSE.

NAME WHAT IS EMERGING—AND WHAT REMAINS UNRESOLVED.

TAKE ONE FAITHFUL NEXT STEP.

DIFFERENT, BUT TOGETHER.

WE MAY NOT SEE THE SAME THINGS.
THAT MAY BE WHY WE NEED ONE ANOTHER.

FACILITATOR MAP · 90 MINUTES

FRAME · 10 MIN

Purpose · covenant · central question

PERSONAL ATTENTION · 3 MIN

Silence + one written experience

SMALL GROUPS · 25 MIN

Attend/listen · receive · discern/respond

WHOLE ROOM · 15 MIN

Listen across the circles

META-DEBRIEF · 22 MIN

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