

SCRIPTURE SHARING

Group *LECTIO DIVINA* Process

The *Group Lectio Divina* (literally *divine reading*) provides a method of scripture sharing to connect the biblical text to the context of your life (groups of 4-7). Begin by choosing a convener—who convenes the group in brief time of silence (and may add a spoken prayer.) Convener may read, or call on others to read, and will moderate the times of conversation.

First reading: Listen for a word or phrase that shimmers—one that lures you or disturbs you. Allow silence, then each share **only a phrase of image** now, without comment.

Second reading: Allow silence to reflect on an **experience or story** connected to that word phrase, or image. Each share what seems right, an experience or story with the group. (Keep it personal: use *I, me* rather than *we, us*. Without cross-talk; receive each other's story as a gift.)

Third reading: Be attentive to some action or response you feel called to this week. Allow silence (in a retreat setting group may break for a longer silence **and set time to reconvene**)...
...After silence, each share a response or action. (It may be as simple as a call to keep some matter in prayer; to call or write someone; or to begin keeping a journal.)

Conclude with single “sentence prayer” (or silent prayer with an “amen”) for person on your right—or with a song, the Serenity Prayer, etc. *When finished, sit in silence till all other groups are silent.*

The group *lectio divina* method comes out of monastic practice where it was called *collatio*, originally “the bringing together” of a shared supper. *It is a bringing together of friends and stories and connections they bring, related to a scripture text.* The method has been used at large conferences, in retreats, lunch-breaks in work situations—and in “base communities” of third-world countries where Bible study, prayer, singing, personal compassion and social action often merge into one. It is a way to create small group *koinonia* even in a large gathering or space. (Allow half an hour, or longer if breaking for silent retreat at the third reading.)

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