

A Simple Lectio Divina for Use In Small Faith Groups:

This form of Lectio Divina works best in a group of 3-6 people. A group leader coordinates the process and facilitates the sharing. The same text from Scripture is read aloud three times by three different people, followed each time by a period of silence and then an opportunity for each member of the group to share in a brief, guided fashion as outlined below;

- 1) **The First Reading** – is for the purpose of *hearing the Word*. When a word or phrase touches your heart receive it gratefully and silently repeat it to yourself in the silence that follows. After a brief period of silence each person shares a *single word or phrase* that has caught their attention. Just the word or phrase is shared *with no additional commentary* by the individual or the group. Simply speak the Word and allow it to be received by the others. After the last person has shared, leave a few moments of silent space before the next person begins to read. This allows us space to truly soak in God's Word.
- 2) **The Second Reading** – Is for the purpose of *'seeing' or paying attention to Christ* in the text, especially as it relates to your own personal situation. As the scripture is read a second time, participants pay attention to any images or ideas that come to mind as they hear their word or phrase proclaimed again. After the reading is done, each person then shares this image or idea with the group. What does this word or phrase make you think of and/or feel? As above, sharing is made without additional commentary by those listening. Simply receive what is being shared in grace and gratitude. Again, leave some space for silence before the final read-through begins.
- 3) **The Third and Final Reading** – Is for the purpose of *connecting the Word of God to our particular lived experience* and an experiencing of Christ “calling us forth”. As the passage is read a third time, think about what Christ may be inviting you to do based on your word or phrase and the images and connections you have made. Once the final reading is done, each person shares a potential response they might make in regards to their previous insights. Why has Christ brought these particular things to mind today? What is occurring in your personal life, your area of ministry, or your parish that these themes may be speaking to? What might Christ be asking of you? What might you do as a result? Leave some space for silence before this time of prayer closes.
- 4) **To close** - each person is asked to turn and offer a prayer for the particular needs of the person on their left.

Regular use of this method of group prayer is an excellent way to develop and/or deepen one's relationship with Jesus Christ as well as deepening trust within a group. It is also an excellent way of consecrating a group's mission, hopes, and goals to Christ before more formal group meetings begin.

In a committee or PPC context participants may wish to pay particular attention to the movements and insights of stage three of these reflections. This is where the connection between prayer and ministry are brought to mind and take root. Insights brought forward here may be used as valuable seeds for further thought and discussion once your meeting gets under way.