

Lectio Divina Format for Discussing Sunday Readings

1. The Call to Prayer

Leader: My friends, let's pause to spend a few moments in prayer and conversation with each other. [Lead all in the Sign of the Cross] + In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2. The Word of God

Leader: May the Lord be in our hearts as we listen to a reading from next Sunday's Gospel.

Leader or someone else reads the Gospel for the first time:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

(Luke 13:1-9)

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans
whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices.
Jesus said to them in reply,
“Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way
they were greater sinners than all other Galileans?
By no means!
But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!
Or those eighteen people who were killed
when the tower at Siloam fell on them—
do you think they were more guilty
than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem?
By no means!
But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!”

And he told them this parable:

“There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard,
and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none,
he said to the gardener,
‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree
but have found none. So cut it down.
Why should it exhaust the soil?’
He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also,
and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it;
it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.’”

The Gospel of the Lord

Leader asks the group the following question and then allows time for people to share.

3. **First Question** - What word or phrase sticks out to you?

After people have shared, the Gospel is read again and the 2nd question is asked and people share.

4. **Second Question** - What does that word or phrase mean to you?

After people have shared, the Gospel is read for the last time and the 3rd question is asked and people share.

5. **Third and Final Question** - What comforts or challenges you about the word or phrase you chose?

At the conclusion of the sharing, the leader invites the group to pray (see below).

6. The Prayer

Invite everyone to pray in one of the following ways:

- The Lord's Prayer out loud together
- Spontaneous prayers
- A moment of silent prayer
- Listen to a recorded hymn