

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 Reading 1 from next Sunday's Mass.

Leader or someone else reads "Reading 1" for the first time:

A reading from Sirach

(Sir 3:2-6, 12-14)

God sets a father in honor over his children;
a mother's authority he confirms over her sons.
Whoever honors his father atones for sins,
and preserves himself from them.
When he prays, he is heard;
he stores up riches who reveres his mother.
Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children,
and, when he prays, is heard.
Whoever reveres his father will live a long life;
he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old;
grieve him not as long as he lives.
Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him;
revile him not all the days of his life;
kindness to a father will not be forgotten,
firmly planted against the debt of your sins
—a house raised in justice to you.

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, Reading 1 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, Reading 1 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