

# Lectio Divina in Small Groups

## 1.

### LECTIO

Try one or more of the following ways of reading the passage. See what works best for your particular group.

- Individual reading. To start with give everyone time to read through the passage silently.
- Proclamation of the Word. One person reads (proclaims) the Word.
- Two readers. Two people read the text aloud alternatively.
- Each person reads a verse. This is a way of involving each participant, inviting each to read from his own Bible, so that the reading is attentive and dynamic.
- Audio version. If you have access to a recorded version of the text you could also use that. You may notice different words are stressed.

With different characters/ Approach the text somewhat like a drama, in which one person is the narrator/reader, another takes the part of Jesus, a third takes another person. This can be the most dynamic or engaging method and helps us to identify just what the different characters in the passage are saying.

## 3.

### ORATIO

We suggest you give people time for person silent prayer before God. You can also give opportunity for people to pray out loud in their own words. The aim should be to help each person make a personal response to the Lord during this time.

## 2.

### MEDITATIO

- In the group setting, it is important that everyone is given time to participate, to share what the Lord has been saying to them. While the Lord speaks through his Word, he also speaks to us through our brothers and sisters. So as we listen to others we need to open our hearts to hear the Lord's voice speaking through them.

- It is important that everyone in the group understands that this sharing is to build one another up and enrich our experience. It is not necessary that everyone agrees about what is shared. You need to be careful to avoid this time turning into a debate or argument. The Lord knows us each as individuals so will have different things to say to us personally at this specific point in our lives.

- You can start with a simple question like "What catches your attention in this passage?" and use the printed questions. The aim is to help everyone feel comfortable to speak and share how the text has inspired them. Gently keep the group focused on the text and what God is saying.

## 4.

### CONTEMPLATIO

Contemplation by its very nature is an individual exercise and silence is necessary. If you have room it may be helpful to suggest people move so they have their own 'personal space'.