

Shared Lectio Divina

This is suitable for groups of up to 8 or 9. Allow 45 minutes.

After a short prayer and a minute of recollection, the leader reads through a passage from the Bible.

In turn, each member of the group shares a word or phrase that has struck them. Simply share the word or phrase; do not comment on your own or another's word. Anyone may 'pass' if they wish.

The leader reads the passage a second time. There is then a period of silence for 5-10 minutes during which people ponder/sit with 'the Word' in whatever way they wish.

After the silence, the leader reads the passage for a third time. Then each member of the group shares whatever they wish for a minute or so. Let each member speak in turn; do not 'hog the time', and do not comment on what others say at this stage. Again, each must feel free simply to say 'pass'.

When everyone has had the chance to share, the leader invites everyone to pray silently for the person on their right, after which there is the opportunity for a general sharing in the group for a short time.

The leader ends with the Grace or another short prayer.

Adapted from usage at Mucknell Abbey

Shared Lectio Divina for larger groups

Divide into small groups of about 3 or 4

After a short prayer and a minute of recollection, the leader reads through a passage from the Bible.

In turn, each member of the small group shares a word or phrase that has struck them. Simply share the word or phrase; do not comment on your own or another's word. Anyone may 'pass' if they wish.

The leader reads the passage a second time. There is then a period of silence for 5-10 minutes during which people ponder/sit with 'the Word' in whatever way they wish.

After the silence, the leader reads the passage for a third time. Then each member of the group shares whatever they wish for a minute or so. Let each member speak in turn; do not 'hog the time', and do not comment on what others say at this stage. Again, each must feel free simply to say 'pass'. Once all members have shared, continue to sit silently with the passage until each group has finished.

When everyone has had the chance to share, the leader invites everyone to pray silently for the person on their right, after which there is the opportunity for a general sharing in the group for a short time.

The leader ends with the Grace or another short prayer.

Adapted from usage at Mucknell Abbey

John 4:5-15

Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (NRSV)

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.'

The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

John 1:43-51

Jesus calls Philip, who calls Nathanael

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'

You might want to finish reading here

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'