

LECTIO DIVINA 4

THE JOURNEY TO TROUBLE

ACTS 21:1-40

Lectio Divina is a spiritual practice developed by St. Benedict in the sixth century as a way to meditate on and engage with the Word of God. As a group you will read through a passage of Scripture slowly three times, pausing between each reading to reflect and share. While theology may inform what you hear, this encounter is meant to highlight what the Word is brushing up against right now in your life. Expect this practice to take 15-20 minutes. Specific details for your group are laid out below.

STEP ONE

Select one person to read Acts 21:17-26. Take a 10-15 second pause before you begin reading slowly through the passage. If you are not the one reading, feel free to follow along in your own Bible. While the passage is read, pay attention for a word or phrase that jumps out to you. When the passage is complete, pause for another 10-15 seconds. Go around your group and invite everyone to simply share the word or phrase that stuck out to them or say "pass."

STEP TWO

Select a new person to read Acts 21:17-26. Pause for 10-15 seconds before beginning to read slowly through the passage. During this reading let an image come to mind. This image may or may not be literal; figurative images can help you process the passage and hear what God has to say. Not everyone has a visual mind, so if an image doesn't surface, that's ok. When the passage is complete, pause for another 10-15 seconds. Again, go around your group and invite everyone to share the image that came to mind. If nothing came to mind or you do not want to share, just say "pass."

STEP THREE

Select a new person to read Acts 21:17-26. Again, pause for 10-15 seconds before starting. This time listen for an invitation from God. To what is He inviting you today? At the end of this reading, pause for 30-45 seconds to allow everyone a few moments to be still and quiet with God. Invite everyone to share what they experienced during this time through the passage. Limit this time of sharing to just one minute per person so everyone gets a chance to share.

NEXT

Open the conversation to the group. Are there ways God is trying to activate you or your group? The "activated" group processing questions (page 6) are a helpful guide as your group engages with this material and with God.