

Lectio Divina #1

1. Divide into groups of four.
2. Take time in silence to settle yourself in God's presence. Use a breath prayer or whatever method works for you. Quiet the busy monkeys in your mind.
3. Have someone from the group read the passage aloud, slowly.
4. After the passage has been read, pause in silence for about thirty seconds. Then each person in the group should share *only* a word, or phrase, or sentence that stood out for him/her. Don't comment or explain. Simply say whatever caught your attention, shimmered, jumped off the page. It is always okay to simply say "pass."
5. After each member of the group has shared his/her word or phrase or sentence, pause in silence for about thirty seconds, and then have another member of the group read the passage aloud slowly.
6. After the passage has been read the second time, pause in silence for about thirty seconds. Then each person in the group should take a minute or so to talk about what stands out in the passage for him/her. What strikes you? Why? What thoughts come to mind as you consider this passage? It is always okay to simply say "pass."
7. After each member of the group has shared his/her first thoughts about the passage, pause in silence for about thirty seconds, and then have another member of the group read the passage aloud slowly.
8. After the passage has been read the third time, pause in silence for about thirty seconds. Then each person in the group should take a minute or so to describe what he/she thinks God might be saying to him/her personally in the passage. Is there a message in this passage for me? What am I hearing from God? It is always okay to simply say "pass."
9. After each member of the group has shared his/her thoughts on what the passage may be saying to him/her personally, have the fourth group member offer a brief prayer for the group.

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

(2Corinthians 5:6-17 ESV)