

Lectio Divina #2

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.

And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

(Mark 4:26-34 ESV)