

Holy reading; holy listening

From Volunteers Exploring Vocation

From the Benedictines of the fifth century comes a way of “praying the Scripture” known as *Lectio Divina* (literally “sacred reading”). The Benedictines developed an approach to meditation and prayer that encouraged restful silence, waiting, listening, and thoughtful response. *Lectio Divina* is a way to read Scripture for formation rather than just for information.

For this particular experience with *Lectio Divina* we will use Scripture from Luke 10:25-37.

- Begin by reading the passage aloud once. Listen for content.
- Read the passage a second time and listen for a word or phrase that captures your attention or “sparkles” when you hear it.
- Read the passage a third time and listen for the ways the passage speaks to a particular reality of your life right now.
- After a brief pause, read the passage a final time, listening for God’s invitation—is there something this text is calling me to do? To be? To look for over the next few days? What personal invitation does the Scripture have for me to receive and rest in?

Scripture reading

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to

him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half-dead. Now, by chance, a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

—*Luke 10:25-37*

Prayer

God, we thank you for your word, for the story of your action in the world, and for the creative ways you’ve given us to engage it. Guide us into the passages that they might transport us into deeper relationship with you and one another. Plant the words in our hearts that we might reap the good fruit of your presence in our lives. Bless this community, and gather our lives and stories into your own, overarching narrative. Amen.



Photo by Travis Duerksen

Paula Klatte (back to camera), Cynthia Neufeld Smith, Roger Neufeld Smith, Risa Fukaya and Estella Sandweg take turns leading worship nights every Tuesday evening.