

PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE

A Model for Weekly Bible Study

Gather and begin with prayer.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: Let us be silent and place ourselves in the presence of God,
that we may hear his voice speaking to us in the Scriptures.

(A period of silence is observed.)

Let us pray:

Father, we thank you for the gift of your Word.
Open our hearts: let your Spirit speak to us
as we listen to your living Word.

Listening to the Word of God

The group listens to a brief commentary and the passage(s) from the Scriptures which are to be proclaimed during the Mass of the upcoming Sunday, using the following format. Note: the following process may be followed for each of the readings for the upcoming Sunday or for the Gospel only, depending on the wishes of the group.

The leader or a member of the group may read a brief introduction to the Scripture passage which will be proclaimed in the assembly on the upcoming Sunday. See: *Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers and Proclaimer of the Word* *Canadian Edition, (published by Liturgical Training Publications, available from the Diocesan Liturgy Office).

1. The leader invites everyone to listen to the Scripture passage. As the text is read by a member of the group, all are invited to **listen for a word, a phrase, or an image that speaks to them**.
2. Following a period of silence, the members of the group are invited to share their word, phrase or image, as they wish.
3. The leader invites everyone to listen to the Scripture passage again. As the text is read by a member of the group, all are invited to **listen to determine what God is saying to them** in the passage.
4. Following a period of silence, the members of the group are invited to share what they heard God saying to them.

5. The leader invites everyone to listen to the Scripture passage a third time. As the text is read by a member of the group, all are invited to **listen to determine what they believe God is asking of them**. What are they to do with the message they have heard?
6. At the conclusion of the time of prayer and reflection, the leader says the following prayer.

Father, we thank you for speaking to us through your Word.
May your Word be a lamp for our steps.

7. The group may then say the Lord's Prayer.
8. The gathering may pray the following prayer (*available on cards from the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis or found digitally on the Bible Sunday webpage*):

Blessed are you, Lord God,
creator of heaven and earth,
for your Word made flesh: Jesus Christ.

We praise and thank you
for your Word recorded in the Bible
and faithfully proclaimed in the assembly of your holy people.

May our hearts and minds be always open
to welcome your life-giving Word.
May your Word nourish our faith, enliven our hope,
and strengthen us in the bond of love.
May we carry your word with us each day
as we seek to serve you in our brothers and sisters.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

9. The gathering concludes with the Sign of the Cross.