



**THE FACILITATOR** Whether in someone's living room or online via Skype, the facilitator has a coordinating role. They are there mainly to provide a framework and a rhythm for the Lectio Divina. The facilitator makes sure that the guidelines for the Lectio Divina are followed. Lectio Divina is a place of listening and sharing. The facilitator ensures that everyone can express themselves freely without the fear of being challenged.

## HOW LECTIO DIVINA WORKS IN A GROUP SETTING

### 1. WELCOME THE HOLY SPIRIT

Lectio Divina is introduced with a prayer. The Holy Spirit is invited to speak to us through the biblical text.

### 2. FIRST READING - WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE SAY?

A person chosen by the facilitator reads the entire selected text. During 10 minutes of silence participants are invited to meditate and answer the question : **"What does this passage say in itself?"** Participants write down their thoughts and are then invited to share 3 points that seem most important to them, limiting themselves to what they have written. Everyone shares a point - then there is a second and a third round. The facilitator decides the order in which participants will speak. If the group is large, sharing can be limited to 2 points per person or even 1 point.

### GUIDELINES WHEN PEOPLE ARE SHARING

- Participants are invited to speak for themselves and own their contribution. We avoid generalisations such as 'people say' or 'the church says' and use words like 'I see, I now understand or I am thinking about...'

- Please don't have a reaction to what others say. Resist speaking back immediately. You don't need to agree with anyone and you shouldn't argue back. Lectio Divina is not a traditional Bible study. Every contribution is of value in itself - whether it is an unanswered question or even a rejection of what the text says.

- Try to put forward one thread of thinking at a time and be concise. Participants can speak up several times, but this can limit a person's ability to reflect on their own thoughts.

### 3. SECOND READING - WHAT ARE THESE VERSES TELLING ME?

A second person chosen by the facilitator reads the text. During 10 minutes of silence, the participants are invited to meditate and respond to the question : **"What are these verses telling me?"** Again, time is set aside to share with the same principles as for the first reading.

### 4. THIRD READING AND PRAYER INSPIRED BY THE TEXT

A third person chosen by the facilitator reads the text. During 5 minutes silence, participants are invited to let their heart respond to the passage through a prayer. Those who would like to, can share it aloud. The facilitator briefly concludes with a prayer of thanks.

### THE TIMING

We feel that the most suitable length for lectio divina is between 45 minutes and 1 hour. Without the facilitator to keep things on track, the Lectio Divina can easily overrun.

