

12 February 2023

Bible Reading(s) for the week

Feel free to focus on as much or as little makes sense for your practice and discussion. It is recommended that one passage is chosen for the Lectio Divina Practice in the Small Group Setting.

1 John 4:7-21

God is Love

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Prayer for Enlightenment (Based on Ephesians 1:17-23)

God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may you give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that we may know you better. We pray that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened in order that we may know the hope to which you have called us, the riches of your glorious inheritance, and your great power for us who believe. Lord, you rule far above all authority, power and dominion, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. We pray that you continue to lead us as your church as we study your word, and grow in community with you and one another. Amen.

Lectio Divina (steps to be practiced by Small Group each week)

[History and background of the Lectio Divina](#)

Lectio Reading (Small Group reads the Scripture together)

Meditatio Meditation (Individual time to meditate on the word, may read through again on their own)

Lectio Read through the scripture again.

Oratio Prayer (Individual prayer over the Scripture reading)

Lectio Read through the scripture again.

Contemplatio Communal Contemplation (The group shares their observations, connections, and interpretations of the text as well as their thoughts on the sermon, the reading, and their personal interpretations based on the previous steps.)

Actio The Call to Action (The group applies the scripture to themselves, the church, and the greater community– world).

1. What does this reading mean for me?
2. What does this reading mean for our Church?
3. What does this reading mean for our greater community?

Small Group Communal Prayer