

HEAR – Think – Do 2021

Lectio divina, Latin for "divine reading," is a devotional reading of Scripture that has existed for over 1,700 years. This practice emerged when literacy rates were low, and accessibility to written texts was few and far between. Communities of believers used this method to enable followers of Jesus— with or without a copy of the Bible (or an ability to read it)— to receive God's Word and consider how to respond; to hear, think, and do.

This style of prayerful reading is designed to slow us down, to invite us to listen and dwell on each word God has intentionally chosen for the Bible. We are given the chance to contemplate what we have heard, to allow the word to wash over us and point us toward God in prayer. Once we hear and we think, we are reminded to respond to what God is saying to us. To find an invitation to join God in his work here on earth and to step into those moments and situation God has appointed for us.

The disciplines of prayer, silence, and meditation are key to this practice. You don't have to be a master at them, that's why we are doing this, to grow together in these important aspects of our faith. At times these things may seem difficult, or frustrating, do not lose heart, but continue to pursue God, even voicing your frustrations to him. He knows your heart, and if you are seeking after him faithfully, he will show up and you will grow.

The goal of this study is to come learn how to come to the Bible humbly, and with an expectation that God will speak to us clearly. As you move through the different steps, it's ok if you don't have a specific answer or if you can't quite articulate why a certain answer makes sense to you. We have provided for you blank pages for you to journal if that is helpful for you in processing what God is speaking to you.

Each group should have a goal of meeting at least 4 times throughout the summer. If more meetings are desired, then by all means do it! These groups are intentionally smaller and gender specific to give everyone the chance to share and respond and to have a safe and honest place to pursue our growth in Christ in the practical response aspect. Like anything else, you get what you put in, the more open and honest you are the easier it will be for others to do likewise. You can read any translation just make sure everyone is reading the same translation, the NIV can be helpful for this study.

Prayerful listening and reading in this way requires patience and a willingness to let go of our own agendas and open ourselves to God's shaping. He has something for each of us to hear, to think about, and to do, we must be willing to put ourselves in a posture to respond.

HEAR THINK DO – Gathering #1 Matthew 5:13-16

-Share something you hope to receive from these meetings this summer.

-Choose someone in the group to open the time with prayer. Pray and ask for clarity and focus. Pray and ask God to divinely reveal himself and illuminate the text during this time together.

-Sit in **silence** for a few minutes to quiet your hearts and minds.

The FIRST reading of the passage, aloud, slowly, and carefully.

- **Silence** for 2-3 minutes. Ask yourself, “Which particular word or phrase stuck out to me?” Allow that word or phrase to unhurriedly echo silently within yourself.
- **Sharing aloud:** The word or phrase in the text that resonates with you. Why do you think this word or phrase stuck out to you? It’s ok if you can’t articulate the why, or don’t have a word or phrase, don’t give up but continue to pray and ask God to speak.

The SECOND reading of the passage, aloud, slowly, and carefully.

- **Silence** for 2-3 minutes. Rest in the scene and stay focused on a specific emotion or feeling stirring within yourself in response to the text.
- **Sharing aloud:** An emotion or feeling that you feel within yourself from the text. Why do you think this emotion or feeling is breaking through within you? It’s ok if you can’t articulate the why, or can’t identify an emotion, don’t give up, but continue to pray and ask God to speak.

The THIRD reading of the passage, aloud, slowly, and carefully.

- **Silence** for 2-3 minutes. How do you believe God is calling you to respond to the text right now, today, this week? What is a real practical way to respond to the instruction from God?
- **Sharing aloud:** How will you respond this week? What do you want this group to follow up with you about? How can this group pray for you as you seek to respond to God’s guidance in your life?

Close: Pray and ask God to help in the pursuit of being not only a hearer of the word, but a doer.

HEAR THINK DO – Gathering #2 Psalm 1

-How were you able to respond to last week's call? How can you continue to pursue that instruction from God?

-Choose someone in the group to open the time with prayer. Pray and ask for clarity and focus. Pray and ask God to divinely reveal himself and illuminate the text during this time together.

-Sit in **silence** for a few minutes to quiet your hearts and minds.

The FIRST reading of the passage, aloud, slowly, and carefully.

- **Silence** for 2-3 minutes. Ask yourself, "Which particular word or phrase stuck out to me?" Allow that word or phrase to unhurriedly echo silently within yourself.
- **Sharing aloud:** The word or phrase in the text that resonates with you. Why do you think this word or phrase stuck out to you? It's ok if you can't articulate the why, or don't have a word or phrase, don't give up but continue to pray and ask God to speak.

The SECOND reading of the passage, aloud, slowly, and carefully.

- **Silence** for 2-3 minutes. Rest in the scene and stay focused on a specific emotion or feeling stirring within yourself in response to the text.
- **Sharing aloud:** An emotion or feeling that you feel within yourself from the text. Why do you think this emotion or feeling is breaking through within you? It's ok if you can't articulate the why, or can't identify an emotion, don't give up, but continue to pray and ask God to speak.

The THIRD reading of the passage, aloud, slowly, and carefully.

- **Silence** for 2-3 minutes. How do you believe God is calling you to respond to the text right now, today, this week? What is a real practical way to respond to the instruction from God?
- **Sharing aloud:** How will you respond this week? What do you want this group to follow up with you about? How can this group pray for you as you seek to respond to God's guidance in your life?

Close: Pray and ask God to help in the pursuit of being not only a hearer of the word, but a doer.

HEAR THINK DO – Gathering #3 Matthew 6:25-34

-How were you able to respond to last week's call? How can you continue to pursue that instruction from God?

-Choose someone in the group to open the time with prayer. Pray and ask for clarity and focus. Pray and ask God to divinely reveal himself and illuminate the text during this time together.

-Sit in **silence** for a few minutes to quiet your hearts and minds.

The FIRST reading of the passage, aloud, slowly, and carefully.

- **Silence** for 2-3 minutes. Ask yourself, "Which particular word or phrase stuck out to me?" Allow that word or phrase to unhurriedly echo silently within yourself.
- **Sharing aloud:** The word or phrase in the text that resonates with you. Why do you think this word or phrase stuck out to you? It's ok if you can't articulate the why, or don't have a word or phrase, don't give up but continue to pray and ask God to speak.

The SECOND reading of the passage, aloud, slowly, and carefully.

- **Silence** for 2-3 minutes. Rest in the scene and stay focused on a specific emotion or feeling stirring within yourself in response to the text.
- **Sharing aloud:** An emotion or feeling that you feel within yourself from the text. Why do you think this emotion or feeling is breaking through within you? It's ok if you can't articulate the why, or can't identify an emotion, don't give up, but continue to pray and ask God to speak.

The THIRD reading of the passage, aloud, slowly, and carefully.

- **Silence** for 2-3 minutes. How do you believe God is calling you to respond to the text right now, today, this week? What is a real practical way to respond to the instruction from God?
- **Sharing aloud:** How will you respond this week? What do you want this group to follow up with you about? How can this group pray for you as you seek to respond to God's guidance in your life?

Close: Pray and ask God to help in the pursuit of being not only a hearer of the word, but a doer.

HEAR THINK DO – Gathering #4 Psalm 91

-How were you able to respond to last week's call? How can you continue to pursue that instruction from God?

-Choose someone in the group to open the time with prayer. Pray and ask for clarity and focus. Pray and ask God to divinely reveal himself and illuminate the text during this time together.

-Sit in **silence** for a few minutes to quiet your hearts and minds.

The FIRST reading of the passage, aloud, slowly, and carefully.

- **Silence** for 2-3 minutes. Ask yourself, "Which particular word or phrase stuck out to me?" Allow that word or phrase to unhurriedly echo silently within yourself.
- **Sharing aloud:** The word or phrase in the text that resonates with you. Why do you think this word or phrase stuck out to you? It's ok if you can't articulate the why, or don't have a word or phrase, don't give up but continue to pray and ask God to speak.

The SECOND reading of the passage, aloud, slowly, and carefully.

- **Silence** for 2-3 minutes. Rest in the scene and stay focused on a specific emotion or feeling stirring within yourself in response to the text.
- **Sharing aloud:** An emotion or feeling that you feel within yourself from the text. Why do you think this emotion or feeling is breaking through within you? It's ok if you can't articulate the why, or can't identify an emotion, don't give up, but continue to pray and ask God to speak.

The THIRD reading of the passage, aloud, slowly, and carefully.

- **Silence** for 2-3 minutes. How do you believe God is calling you to respond to the text right now, today, this week? What is a real practical way to respond to the instruction from God?
- **Sharing aloud:** How will you respond this week? What do you want this group to follow up with you about? How can this group pray for you as you seek to respond to God's guidance in your life?

Close: Pray and ask God to help in the pursuit of being not only a hearer of the word, but a doer.