
FALL KICK-OFF WEEK # 1

Week 1: Preparing Our Hearts...Lectio Divina



Renovation Groups begin with a return to basics through a study of Philemon that mirrors our LEGIT series concerning Godly character. Paul's plea to Philemon for Onesimus' contains a powerful example of Godly character and the importance of reconciliation. We will also utilize this study to cement some key study skills for Scripture Study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Take a few moments and reconnect as a group. Consider this question: where did you see God at work this summer? What was the closest and furthest you felt from God this past summer?
2. Tonight we will utilize Lectio Divina (pronounced Lexx-eee-oh Dee-vee-na meaning "Spiritual Reading), as one approach to Scripture study.

a. **Silencio.** Begin with prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit to have full authority and control to the time of study. Release the concerns and worries of the day. Thank God for the time of formation.

b. **Lectio.** Next read Philemon 1-25 aloud as a group. Consider the following questions...
Who wrote the letter? Why did he write it? What are the main ideas/events? When was it written?

c. **Meditatio.** Read Philemon 1-25 silently + individually. Consider these questions individually...
What is the Bible saying? What does it mean? What key phrases, words, or ideas are you drawn to? How does this passage fit with other words, phrases, or ideas in Scripture?

Discuss your individual findings as a group.

d. **Oratio.** Consider these questions individually...
What about the passage challenges you? What does it say about God? About you? How does it make you feel? What does it require you to do? Who does the passage call you to be as a follower of Jesus Christ?

Discuss your individual findings as a group.

e. **Contemplatio.** Finally, surrender to God through prayer. What changes are prompted in your heart + life through the reading of this passage of Scripture? Seek God and ask him to guide you.

Pray as a group for God's grace to be at work in your lives this week.

3. Discuss as a group: how does this version of Scripture reading match or differ from your own personal study of Scripture? What can you incorporate from this group study into your own personal spiritual growth?