

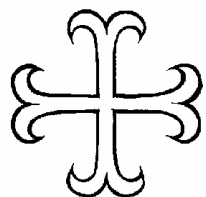
**5 - Guidance** *And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil*

Seeking direction – the Lord's Prayer as a prayer of guidance and discernment

Isaiah 58:9-12 *The LORD will guide you continually*  
or Mark 14:32-36 *Not what I want, but what you want*

A possible closing prayer:

'Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.'



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## “Picking up the Baton”

### ***Corporate prayer from scripture and life experience***

**based on**

### ***Lectio divina and Lectio on life***

Here is a possible way of arranging a prayerful meeting adapted from an ancient method of praying Scripture. *Lectio Divina* or *holy reading* has been handed down through a monastic tradition dating from the early church. In recent decades it has been popularised and adapted for use in groups.

Some groups like to extend the method to include some element of everyday life as the ‘text’ that is prayed instead of - or as well as - the Holy Scripture text. This is known as *Lectio on Life*. Here is a suggestion of how to combine the two.

This is an encounter with God - not a discussion. We aim to listen to what God is saying to us – individually and as a group - through the events of everyday life and through the text of Holy Scripture.

***Preparation*** choose a leader and a reader and find the scripture text.

***Start*** Each meeting starts after a time of recollection, each asking the Lord to open their hearts and show them what to pray, the leader prays a simple opening prayer and introduces the theme of the day.

**Choose a 'life event'** Each person prayerfully reflects on their current life and chooses an event or a matter of current concern to them. It could be anything - feelings, joys, worries, plans, suffering, puzzlement, preoccupation, etc. Allow the Lord to bring something to mind even if you cannot see any direct relevance – yet. The leader invites each member of the group in turn to share – briefly – the life event they have been given, all the others silently listening to what the Lord may be trying to say through these.

**Scripture** The reader reads the whole scripture text. The Leader reads one verse at a time, leaving 2-3 minute gaps. In the gaps between verses, anyone may share an 'echo':-

**DO**

- listen to God.
- offer what God is prompting you to share.
- use the first person singular ("I find...", "I feel...", "I am reminded...").

**Don't**

- start or continue a discussion.
- fear the stillness.
- use 'you...' or 'we...' or 'one...'.

After the last pause the leader asks the reader to read the whole text once more.

**Dialogue** Each person allows this prayerful reflection on scripture to interact – dialogue - with their own 'life event' and prays to the Lord to show them his way.

The leader invites anyone to share what the Lord has shown them.

**Concluding Prayer** The leader starts a simple prayer that everyone can join with; such as 'the Grace' or 'Glory be.'

**Reflection** Still in prayerful - listening to the Lord - mode, the leader invites each in turn to share how they are feeling and if they have discovered anything. They might reflect on their 'life event' and say how their understanding of it might have changed.

**End** The leader draws the meeting to a close.

**Some texts:**

A possible opening prayer:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

*Let us pray,*

O God, who taught the hearts of your faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of the same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation; through Christ, our Lord.

**The Five themes and suggested scripture texts:**

**1 - Belonging** *Our Father, who art in heaven*

Building intimacy with God – the Lord's Prayer as a prayer of belonging and contemplation

Luke 10:38-42 *Mary has chosen the better part*

or 1 John 3:1-3 *We will see him as he is*

**2 - Purpose** *Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven*

Strengthening desire for God's Kingdom – the Lord's Prayer as a prayer of purpose and discipline

Matthew 13:44-46 *The treasure and the pearl*

or Philippians 3:10-16 *Straining forward to what lies ahead I press on towards the goal*

**3 - Empowerment** *Give us this day our daily bread*

Welcoming God's provision – the Lord's Prayer as a prayer of empowerment and expectancy

Genesis 22:9-14 *The LORD will provide*

or Luke 11:9-13 *The heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him*

**4 – Forgiveness** *And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us*

Confessing our sins – the Lord's Prayer as a prayer of forgiveness and penitence.

Luke 17:1-6 *You must forgive*

or 1 John 1:5-10 *He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness*