

LECTIO DIVINA: PRAYING THE SCRIPTURES

“Lectio Divina” is Latin for “Divine Reading,” a way of “praying” the Scriptures—listening carefully for how God may be speaking to you, personally, through the Scriptures. You may choose to do all these steps on the same day, or over a series of days. You can also work through these steps as a couple or as a family, reading the passage aloud and spending time in silence after each reading, then sharing in just a sentence or two how you would respond to each question. I always find it insightful to hear how God speaks to each of us in different ways through the same passage!

FIRST READING: Read the passage once to gain a general understanding of what the passage is about. What does the passage say? Who are the characters involved? What actions take place? What questions are raised?

SECOND READING: Read the passage slowly, listening to a word or phrase that jumps out at you. At this point, let go of everything else the passage says, and just sit with that word or phrase, mulling it over in your mind, considering what it means to you and why it jumped out at you today.

THIRD READING: Read the passage slowly, listening for how this passage touches your life today. What does it say to you? How are you challenged? Convicted? Perplexed? Affirmed? Comforted? Called?

FOURTH READING: Read the passage slowly, listening for what God is calling you to do or be in light of this passage. Is there some action God is calling you to take? Is there something in your life you need to change—a behavior or an attitude? How can what you learned from this passage help you to be a better Jesus-follower?

PRAY: Spend time in prayer. If you are doing this exercise with your spouse or family, pray for each other.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK



A Schedule of Readings for 2021

IMMERSING OURSELVES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK IN 2021

This year Pastor Shalimar will preach straight through the Gospel of Mark, excepting a few special seasonal Sundays when she will suspend the focus on Mark in order to center in on seasonal themes. You are encouraged to spend time reading and meditating on these passages each week.

- You may choose to focus on the passage for the upcoming Sunday in order to better prepare yourself to hear that week's sermon, **OR** you may choose to focus on the passage from the previous Sunday in order to think more deeply about the sermon, **OR** you may choose to split your time, beginning your reading for the upcoming Sunday on a Wednesday, for instance, and continuing to focus on that passage through the following Tuesday so as to spend time considering the passage both before and after Pastor's sermon.
- You may choose to meditate on the passage just once before and/or after the sermon is preached, or you may choose to sit with the passage each day of the week, gleaning deeper insights the longer you sit with the words on the page.
- You may want to stick with the same translation, or read the passage in a different translation each day. (Hundreds of different translations can be found at www.biblegateway.com)
- You may choose to study the passage by yourself or with your spouse or family or a friend.
- On the back of this pamphlet Pastor Shalimar has offered a suggestion for how you might use a form of meditation called "Lectio Divina" in order to "Pray the Scriptures" and listen for what God is saying to you, specifically, through the passage each week.

As we immerse ourselves in Mark's gospel this year, let us not only *think* more deeply about what it means to follow Jesus, but let us turn our thoughts into *actions* as we follow him more nearly every day!

PREACHING/READING SCHEDULE

January 10	Mark 1:1-20	June 13	Mark 8:27-9:1
January 17	Mark 1:21-39	June 20	Mark 9:2-13
January 24	Mark 1:40-2:12	June 27	Mark 9:14-29
January 31	Mark 2:13-22	July 4	Mark 9:30-50
February 7	Mark 2:23-3:6	July 11	Mark 10:1-16
February 14	Mark 3:7-19	July 18	Mark 10:17-31
February 16	Ash Wednesday	July 25	Mark 10:32-35
February 21	Mark 3:20-35	August 1	Mark 10:46-52
February 28	Mark 4:1-34	August 8	Mark 11:1-11
March 7	Mark 4:35-41	August 15	Mark 11:12-25
March 14	Mark 5:1-20	August 22	Mark 11:27-12:12
March 21	Mark 5:21-43	August 29	Mark 12:13-34
March 28	Palm Sunday	September 5	Mark 12:35-44
April 1	Maundy Thursday	September 12	Mark 13:1-37
April 2	Good Friday	September 19	Mark 14:1-11
April 4	Easter Sunday	September 26	Mark 14:12-26
April 11	Mark 6:1-13	October 3	Mark 14:27-52
April 18	Mark 6:14-20	October 10	Mark 14:53-65
April 25	Mark 6:30-44	October 17	Mark 14:66-72
May 2	Mark 6:45-56	October 24	Mark 15:1-20
May 9	Mark 7:1-23	October 31	Mark 15:21-41
May 16	Mark 7:24-37	November 7	Mark 15:42-47
May 23	Pentecost Sunday	November 14	Mark 16:1-20
May 30	Mark 8:1-21	November 21	Christ the King
June 6	Mark 8:22-26		

A FEW QUICK FACTS ABOUT MARK'S GOSPEL

- Written sometime between A.D. 65-75, Mark was the first of the four gospels to be written
- Mark was not written by one of Jesus' apostles, but by a younger man who knew Jesus' apostles—perhaps a disciple of Peter's or the man named John Mark who traveled with the apostle Paul
- Mark was written during a time of great persecution of Christians and thus emphasizes the cost of following Jesus