

AN AFRICAN MODEL FOR BIBLE STUDY

— Adapted from Latin American Base Community model
by the Lumko Missiological Institute, South Africa

Ongoing groups will share individually what they have experienced in prayer since their last meeting together as the opening part of the Bible Sharing period.

Begin Opening prayer.

Read One participant reads the passage aloud, slowly.

lect.

Reflect One minute of silence. What word/phrase catches my attention?

Share Each participant shares his/her word or phrase without adornment and without comment from the other participants.

rephrases.

Read Another participant reads the passage aloud from a different translation.

lecturing

Reflect 3-5 minutes of silence. where does this passage touch my life?

meditation

Share Each participant begins in turn, "I hear/see..."

Read A third participant reads aloud from a third translation.

collation

Reflect 3-5 minutes of silence. From what I have heard and shared, what does God want me to be/do today? This week? How does God invite me to change?

Share Each participant begins, "I believe God wants me to..."

Ethical

End Each participant prays aloud for the person on his/her right, praying only for what that person expressed in the prior step; each continues to pray for the person on his/her right through the days until the next study period.

prayer

PROCEDURAL OUTLINE AND CHECKLIST

A Method of L.D.

In the chapter on "Learning and Teaching Together" I suggested that a list of the steps in a meditation be posted. In all inexperienced classes, and, if desired, in experienced classes too, the teacher should precede each of the steps with a few words of guidance. Obviously these will vary with the subject. (Some examples are given earlier in this book), but here, step by step, I have listed some key suggestions:

1. *What Have We Here?*

Make simple observations. Don't worry about what you don't know. Don't rush ahead to think of meanings. Just relax and look. Enjoy it.

2. *What Might This Mean?*

Now you have five minutes of silence in which to choose three or four of your observations that either struck you strongly, puzzled you, surprised you or came back to your mind repeatedly. Then use your imagination to think of how these observations relate to human life. Not your life in particular—anyone's.

3. *What Is God Saying to Me?*

Now spend five more minutes to choose the one observation, and its possible meanings, that came home to you most strongly or repeatedly. Or that puzzled or surprised you. And then think what message these observations, and their possible meanings, may have for you.

4. *The Token.*

Now spend three more minutes thinking of some very small thing you can do in the next twenty-four hours to betoken the message you have received.

Lectio Divina and Examen Worksheet

Lectio

1. Write down the word, phrase, image or impression that caught your attention from the Scripture reading.

Examen

2. What are two major concerns in your life right now? *(This helps to identify to focus of your conscious mind and to establish priorities.)*

3. List two joys or consolations in your life. *(This reveals what is real and valuable in your life.)*

4. Identify two areas where God may be asking you to grow, triumph or endure.

5. What is your response to God in light of the above?

Meditatio

Let the meaning of the words or image from the lectio sink into your mind and heart. What does it mean in relation to your life? What is God's message to you?

Oratio (Prayer)

What do you want to ask God for? What is your prayer for yourself in light of God's message for you? Write your prayer and listen for God's answer.

Contemplatio

Rest in God's presence. In what way, if any, do you experience that presence now? As you quietly open your soul to God, become aware of your feelings toward God. What is he guiding you to do or be?