



Part 5: Inviting God into The New Year

December 30 & 31, 2017

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**Lectio Divina** = Latin for Divine Reading

**Four Parts of Lectio Divina**

1. Lectio
2. Meditatio
3. Oratio
4. Contemplatio

**How does Lectio Divina work?** One Bible passage is read four separate times. Each of those four times we reflect in a different way on this singular passage.

**1. Lectio = reading**

What are we listening for?

1. To hear the Scripture—or the Bible—being read, and to truly take in its meaning.
2. To hear God as well.

**Purpose of Lectio: to discover what word or phrase sticks out to you**

**2. Meditatio = meditation**

Through meditation we allow God's word to become His word for us, a word that touches us and affects us at our deepest levels.

**3. Oratio = Prayer**

In this prayer, we allow the word or phrase that we have taken in, and on which we are pondering, to touch and change our deepest selves.

**4. Contemplatio = Contemplation or Rest**

Wordless, quiet rest in the presence of the One who loves us.

*Invite God to lead you into 2018.  
Ask God to prepare your heart to  
hear his word and his still, small voice.*

## **1. Lectio (Reading): Luke 10:25-28**

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

*Take a few moments of silent reflection to identify a word or phrase that stands out to you. Write that word here.*

## **2. Meditatio (Meditation)**

*Take a few moments of silent reflection and ruminates on that word or phrase that stood out to you. What is God trying to tell you?*

## **3. Oratio (Prayer)**

*Take a few moments of silent reflection and discover what God wants you to do. What do you hear God saying?*

## **4. Contemplatio (Contemplation and Rest)**

*Spend time in contemplation. Rest in Jesus’ words. Simply be in God’s presence for a few moments.*

## **Benediction = bestowing of a blessing**

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

*– Ephesians 3:16-21*

## **Small Group Questions**

Practice Lectio Divina in your small group gathering this week. You can use either of the passages in this outline (Luke or Ephesians) or choose another short passage of scripture. Have someone read the passage 4 times with space between for each of the four practices. At the end, make time for people to share what they’ve heard or seen from God, and what that might mean for their lives.