

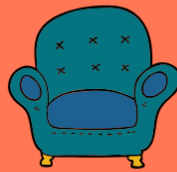
Shine Your Light — Share Your Story

*Learning from Sacred Scripture
how we can tell our own story
of faith.*



LECTIO DIVINA

Literally translated, "divine reading," lectio divina is a method for praying with the Scriptures.



PREPARE

Set aside a time to devote to the scriptures. Find a quiet spot. Sit in a comfortable position. Have your Bible ready to dive into the Scriptures. If you journal or doodle when praying, have your favorite notebook and writing utensils ready. Put your phone away.



LECTIO: READ

Slowly read over the passage once. Don't rush through it. Take your time. During this reading, notice what words or images stand out to you. Write it down to remember it. Be open to what God is saying to you.



MEDITATIO: REFLECT

Read the passage again. Do the same things stand out? Did you notice something different? Did you find yourself focusing on a word you noticed during the first reading? Allow yourself to go deeper into the text. What comes to mind this time?



CONTEMPLATIO: CONTEMPLATION

Read the passage once more time, open your heart, and invite God into your thoughts. Connect what you have learned and experienced during your readings to your every day life and see how God is working in it.



ORATIO: PRAYER

How are you going to live your life after reading, reflecting, and contemplating this specific Scripture? What would you tell God (praying) now that you have read this passage?

A Reading from the Book of Luke

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you."

But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?"

And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

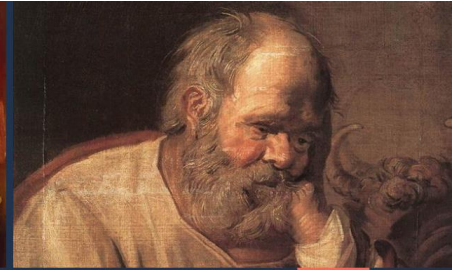
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.

Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.



ANGEL GABRIEL

Sent from God to ask Mary to be the mother of Jesus.
Sure of his message and trusted God.

MARY

Confident God was with her.
Confused at Gabriel's words, but open to God's calling.

ST. LUKE

Gospel writer.
Evangelist to the Gentiles (non-Jewish people). Wrote to his audience and spoke often of mercy and forgiveness.

What makes each of them a unique story teller or messenger giver?

List the most important events in your life over the past 10 years. Try to put them in order by date.

Mary saw God in everything she was doing. What would our story sound like if we saw our story like Mary did? Share your story with your group. Tell your story as if you saw God working in your life.

Share your story again. This time, reflect upon how you see God working in your life. How are we called to live now? How are we called to share our story?



**The best
instrument to
evangelize
young people
is other
young people.**

POPE FRANCIS