



LIFE TRANSFORMED: THE WAY OF LOVE IN LENT

SESSION THREE / LEARN LEARN WISDOM AND LIVE

ENTERING THE WAY (Opening Prayer)

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer, p. 236)

REMEMBERING THE WAY (Scripture Reading and Teaching)

Scripture Reading Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: "To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. O simple ones, learn prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it. Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right; for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.

"My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, endowing with wealth those who love me, and filling their treasuries."

To those without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

Teaching (Father Ron+)

EXPLORING THE WAY (Reflections in smaller groups)

When we are dedicated to learning more about God's wisdom through relationship with Jesus and with others, we open ourselves up to God's holy word made manifest in all with whom we come in contact. Let the wisdom of the group begin to bubble up in your conversation around some of these topics:

Questions.

Where in your life are you truly wise? How do you share that wisdom?

What aspect of God would you like to learn more about?

In what ways has the Holy Spirit been calling out to you to learn more about her and her wise ways?

FINDING OUR WAY TOGETHER (Sharing with the larger group)

Knowing that the collective wisdom in a group is a holy gift, share some of the wisdom you have LEARNED today. What action are you going to take to begin walking the Way of Love?

PRACTICING THE WAY AT HOME (A Practice to Take Home)

Reading and LEARNING from Scripture are wonderful ways of growing in the knowledge of God. Even if we have read a passage a dozen times before, it could still yield fresh wisdom when we ask the Holy Spirit to move over it, as she does over the waters of creation and baptism.

Lectio Divina is a wonderful way to open the reading of Scripture up as a wisdom practice. Lectio Divina or *Divine Reading* is an ancient Christian

contemplative practice where we slow down and carefully chew on a biblical text multiple times, allowing God to speak to us through this text. This practice was established as a monastic practice by St. Benedict in the 6th century as a way to pray the Scriptures. Lectio Divina has 4 steps:

1. Lectio (Read). The first step is to read. Get to know the Scripture passage. Listen carefully to any words or phrases that jump out to you. Wait patiently for God's gentle nudging and guidance.
2. Meditatio (Reflect). Go back to the passage, paying attention to what God might be speaking to you in the words and phrases that jumped out to you. Remember, this is not a Bible Study, so try not to analyze the text. Reflect instead on what God is trying to tell you in this text.
3. Oratio (Respond). After the third reading, you can respond. Write down your reflections. Write down what the Lord is speaking to you. Respond in prayer if you feel moved to do so.
4. Contemplatio (Rest). Finally, spend some time in silent prayer. This is not a time for further reflection, spoken prayer or mediation. Rest in God's presence. If your mind starts wandering off, gently bring it back to silence and stillness without judgment.

Consider practicing Lectio Divina at least once this week.

BEING SENT ON THE WAY (Closing Prayer)

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing; Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer, p. 216)