

Gathering Guide for Week 05 of the Summer Tour - July 13-19



In this week's Gospel, we hear one of Jesus' most well known parables, known as The Good Samaritan. Through this parable, Jesus teaches us the importance of compassion for the weak ... and that each and every one of us is capable of, and called to, compassion for others, especially those less fortunate.

This weekend is the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Our Gospel features the parable of The Good Samaritan, in which we learn Jesus' idea of what it means to be a neighbor. He demonstrates how we must be compassionate neighbors to anyone who needs us: even strangers and those who are very different from us.

As you pray this Gospel in Lectio Divina, alone or in your Group, consider how you have been a neighbor to a stranger in need, to someone who may have been very different from you. Consider asking God to make you aware of someone in need whom you might help in the coming days.

Below are the steps for your Lectio Divina prayer during your Group gathering. You may choose to experience the first five steps on your own, in advance of your group gathering ... or if you are not able to join your group this week.

When you are in group, be sure to allow times of silence throughout these steps so that God may enter into your hearts.

1. Pray. Take a moment to calm yourself and open your heart to hearing what God wants you to recognize in this Gospel. *(Then pray throughout...)*

*Heavenly Father,
Thank you for the small group that You have brought into my life. Bless each person,
that their week will be filled with Your Holy Spirit and their days will be filled with the joy
that our faith in You brings us.*

*As we each prepare for our next Group gathering, bless each of us with eyes to truly see
Your Word, with ears to truly hear Your voice and with the grace to be open to the
changes You want each of us to make in our lives this week.*

*Thank You for loving me, dear Jesus. I love You.
Amen.*

2. Read. Read or/ or listen to this week's Gospel. As you read, **pray:** *God, give me eyes to see what you want me to see in this Gospel.*

Sunday, July 13: The 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Luke 10:25-37

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test Jesus and said, *"Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

Jesus said to him, *"What is written in the law? How do you read it?"*

He said in reply, *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."*

He replied to him, *"You have answered correctly; do this and you will live."*

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, *"And who is my neighbor?"*

Jesus replied, *"A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Like-wise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side."*

But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight.

He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them.

Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn, and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.'

"Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?"

He answered, *"The one who treated him with mercy."*

Jesus said to him, *"Go and do likewise."*

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Meditate. Note any word or phrase that stands out to you. Now, re-read the passage, focusing on the word or phrase that first got your attention. **Pray:** *God, give me **ears to hear** what You are telling me in this Gospel.*

4. Pray. Engage in conversation with God, expressing your thoughts and feelings related to the passage, especially the particular word or phrases that stood out to you.

5. Contemplate. Rest in God's presence, allowing yourself to be still and receive God's insights from the Scripture passage. Consider what God may be saying to you in the word or phrase that stood out to you. Consider what action or change He may be inspiring you to take. **Pray:** *God, give me the **grace to make the changes** in my life that You want me to make, inspired by this Gospel.*

6. Share. When it is your turn in Group, share what word or phrase stood out to you, why it stood out and what action you believe God is asking of you.

7. Listen. Learn. Help. When others share their experiences of what stood out to them, why and the action it inspired, try to understand and learn from what you hear. If there is something you can do for someone, as an individual or as a group, to help them with their action, offer that.

8. Reflect on additional questions. If there is time after your Lectio Divina sharing, consider these Reflection Questions:

- When have you been a neighbor to a stranger, someone who may have been very different from you? Was it difficult? What fear did you have? How did you feel afterward?
- Have there been times in your past when you might have helped someone, but decided not to? What held you back? How did you feel about the choice you made? What might you do differently the next time?
- Has a stranger ever helped you when you were in need? What was your reaction? Did the experience teach you anything about how you might approach and serve someone in need in the future?

9. Pray.

After this moving prayer experience, you will likely want to close by thanking God.

Intersessions for the Group: Take some time before the gathering concludes to pray together for the group members

God in Heaven,

Thank You for caring so much for me that You speak to me in Your Gospel. Please continue to give me eyes that see what You want me to see, ears that hear what You want me to Hear and the grace that enables me to change in the ways that You want me to change. Help me to always trust in You.

And thank you for the people You have placed in my life who help me on my journey to grow closer to You, to love You and to serve You and your children. I am especially grateful for the people in my small Group.

Bless all of us with a peaceful and joy-filled week ahead. And please keep us safe and healthy, especially those who are traveling.

I pray in the Name of Your Son, Jesus.

Amen.