

*Gathering Guide for
Week 08 of the Summer Tour - August 3-9*



Be “rich in what matters to God.”

*Material possessions can provide a false sense of security.
But true life fulfillment is not found in earthly possessions.*

In this week’s Gospel, Jesus gives us a powerful warning against the dangers of greed and the importance of being “rich toward God,” rather than storing up treasures for ourselves here on earth. We are far better off embracing a mindset of gratitude and generosity, seeking richness in experiences, relationships, and spiritual growth rather than being consumed by the pursuit of earthly treasures. True fulfillment comes from a life well-lived, following Jesus’ Way: the Way of faith, love and good deeds.

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, August 3: The 18 th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me."

He replied to him, "Friend, who appointed Me as your judge and arbitrator?"

Then He said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."

Then He told them a parable. "There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, 'What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?' And he said, 'This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!'

"But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?'

"Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God."

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:

- Have you ever stopped to think about what truly gives your life meaning and value? Is it the things you own or the connections you have with people around you?
- How difficult do you find prioritizing spiritual well over material wealth?
- Are you building your life around eternal values ... or temporary, earthly gains? If the latter, what can you do to change your priorities?

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.