



Gathering Guide for Week 09 of the Summer Tour - August 10-16



*“Do not be afraid any longer, little flock,
for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.”*
The message Jesus gave us more than any other:
“Do not be afraid.”
“Fear not.”

Jesus continually encourages all of us, His whole Christian community, to put our trust in Him and not to be afraid! And in this week’s Gospel, He goes further to advise us to prepare ourselves NOW for the coming of God; right now because we do not know the time that judgment will come. How do we prepare? He tells us, “Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” So, we must be sure that our heart is focused on the treasures of heaven, not on the material goods of earth.

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 10: The 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Luke 12:32-48

Jesus said to His disciples: "Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

"Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival."

"Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants."

"Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You, also, must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

Then Peter said, "Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?"

And the Lord replied, "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute the food allowance at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so. Truly, I say to you, the master will put the servant in charge of all his property.

"But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, to eat and drink and get drunk, then that servant's master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish the servant severely and assign him a place with the unfaithful. That servant who knew his master's will but did not make preparations nor act in accord with his will shall be beaten severely; and the servant who was ignorant of his master's will but acted in a way deserving of a severe beating shall be beaten only lightly.

“Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.”

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:

- How well do you put your trust in God and avoid being afraid?
- What circumstances make it most difficult for you to fear not and trust in God?
- How can you respond differently in those circumstances in order to bring you the peace of not being afraid and truly trusting in God?
- Where are your treasures and, therefore, your heart? Are they more the treasures of heaven or of earth? If you need to change where your treasures are, what is the first step?

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.*