



# Meeting with Scripture

“Where two or more are gathered, I am there.” This guide offers suggestions on how any meeting at your parish, school or Catholic organization can begin with a 10 to 15 minute discussion or reflection on Scripture. Use what works for your group.

**Preparation:** Make a copy of the next page for everyone. Select a Scripture passage. Ask various members to lead the opening and closing prayers, to read the Scripture and to lead the reflection. The opening and/or closing prayer can also be recited by the group, or the group can be divided in two and a stanza read by alternating groups.

Not everyone needs to share verbally during the reflection time. Sometimes the Holy Spirit works most profoundly in the silence of our hearts. One option is for someone to read the reflection question, and to allow for a time of silence with no verbal discussion.

Use a Bible to read the Scripture. Ask the person who will be reading the Scripture to read it silently before the prayer begins, and, when he or she proclaims the Scripture to the group, to do so thoughtfully and deliberately. Pick a reading that seems appropriate for the tasks of your meeting, or for what is happening that day.

A lit candle or soft music can also lend ambience to the prayer and discussion.



# Meeting with Scripture

**Always, we begin with the ancient sign of our faith:**

✠ In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **Opening prayer:**

Loving and faithful God,  
Open our ears and hearts  
so that your word spoken to us in the Scriptures may touch our hearts  
and give meaning, direction and nourishment to our daily lives.

Your word of love became flesh in Jesus Christ.  
Strengthen our desire to be drawn closer to Jesus  
as we pray his Gospel  
and become more aware of his presence in us and among us.

Father, please use us as your servants to speak your word to others.  
May our lips and actions speak consolation and peace,  
challenge and invitation,  
justice and forgiveness to those with whom we live and work.

Please bless and strengthen those among us and  
in mission lands who are entrusted with the  
ministry of teaching and preaching your Word.

May your Word continue to become flesh in each of us.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Word, and our brother,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## **Scripture reading**

**Begin with:** “A reading from \_\_\_\_\_”

**After the Scripture reading, conclude with:** “The Word of the Lord.”

**Response:** “Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ” (if a Gospel reading)  
OR “Thanks be to God” (for any other Scripture, Old or New Testament)

## **Reflection**

Use the question(s) following the Scripture passage to begin a brief discussion.

## **Conclusion:**

Close with a spontaneous prayer, based on an insight revealed during the discussion, or repeat the Opening Prayer.

# Psalms and New Testament readings and reflection questions

Psalm 46:11 and Psalm 62:6

A reading from the Psalms:

Be still and confess that I am God.

My soul, be at rest in God alone.

The Word of the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

**Reflection:** What is the difference between loneliness and solitude? Which do you experience more?

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians:

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace himself make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

The Word of the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

**Reflection:** How do I foster the presence of the Spirit in my life? How do I quench the Spirit in my life? How do I retain what is good?

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the letter to the Colossians.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another, as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

**Reflection:** In my life what Scripture passages have given me comfort and encouraged me to trust deeper?

Name some things for which you are grateful.

Where in your life are you being called to forgiveness?

What is holding you back from letting go and trusting in God?

## Romans 8:35-39

A reading from the letter to the Romans:

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? As it is written: "For your sake we are being slain all the day; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

**Reflection:** Do I truly believe that I am so loved by God?

## Philippians 3:8-9

A reading from the letter to the Philippians:

More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

**Reflection:** What place have I given to Christ in my life?

## 1 Peter 4:10-11

A reading from the first letter of Peter:

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever.

The Word of the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

**Reflection:** How do you experience your service in this group to be an act of stewardship of the personal gifts God has given you? Do I speak God's word to others?

## 1 Corinthians 2:9

A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians:

Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

**Reflection:** What is God saying to you?

### Acts 18:9-10

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

One night in a vision the Lord said to Paul, "Do not be afraid. Go on speaking, and do not be silent, for I am with you. No one will attack and harm you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

**Reflection:** What is it inside of us that sometimes keeps us silent when we have something about God to share with others?

### Acts 2:1-4

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

The Word of the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

**Reflection:** The Holy Spirit was given to the church, and if we have received the Holy Spirit in our baptism and confirmation, how should that reality affect the activity of this group at this meeting?

## Gospel readings and reflection questions

### Luke 23:34

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke:

Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.

The Word of the Lord.

**Response:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Reflection:** What stories of forgiveness have strengthened and inspired you to forgive?

### John 19:26-27

A reading from the Gospel according to John:

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother."

The Word of the Lord.

**Response:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Reflection:** What is your relationship with Mary? Do you ask her to help you to get closer to Jesus, her son?

### Mark 6:30-31

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark:

The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat.

The Word of the Lord.

**Response:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Reflection:** What keeps you from solitude? How can you reorder your life to have more space and quiet for God?

### John 14:27

A reading from the Gospel according to John:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

The Word of the Lord.

**Response:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Reflection:** Have you experienced the peace of Jesus? How can you offer it to others?

### Matthew 16:15

A reading according to the Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus said, "Who do you say that I am?"

The Word of the Lord.

**Response:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Reflection:** What words describe Jesus for you? How will he be described at this meeting?

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