

## **Devotional Reading**

Devotional reading (also called “Lectio Divina” or “sacred reading”) is a way of reading Scripture that helps you to open your heart to a message that God desires to speak to you through a particular text. In devotional reading, you choose a section of Scripture (usually one or two paragraphs) and read that section a total of three times. For each reading, the devotional reading guide prompts you to look/listen for something different as you read and listen for God to speak.

To help you learn Devotional Reading, you are invited to practice it using the text, Mark 10:46-52.

### Step 1

Do your best to find a quiet place where you won’t be interrupted or distracted. Take a few minutes to relax and focus on God being present with you, desiring to speak to you. As you prepare to read the passage, pay attention to any word or short phrase that stands out to you. When you’re ready, read the passage aloud, slowly. After you read, sit for a moment with the word or phrase and savor it as something meant just for you.

### **Mark 10:46-52**

Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” “Be quiet!” many of the people yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, “Tell him to come here.” So they called the blind man. “Cheer up,” they said. “Come on, he’s calling you!” Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus. “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked. “My Rabbi,” the blind man said, “I want to see!” And Jesus said to him, “Go, for your faith has healed you.” Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road.”

*Reflection: What word or phrase stood out to you?*

### Step 2

As you read the passage a second time, imagine yourself entering the scene that is being described. When you’re ready, read the passage. After you read, ask God why the word or phrase from the first reading was impressed on you. [Read the passage]

*Reflection: For what reason do you think your word or phrase was impressed on you?*

### Step 3

As you read the passage a final time, pay attention to how God wants you to respond to the word or phrase you have received. When you’re ready, read the passage. After you read, determine what you will do in response to the word or phrase God has given you. [Read the passage]

*Reflection: In light of what God is speaking to you through your word or phrase, in what way is God leading you to respond?*

### Step 4

Close your time in a moment of quiet and gratitude to God for meeting with you through His Word. Ask God to draw your heart and mind back to this passage throughout the day. When you’re ready, conclude your time.

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You can use the 4 steps and the 3 reflection questions with any selection of Scripture that you choose.