



Lectio Divina with The Travelling Crib

Lectio Divina is a wonderful way to experience the Word of God in a contemporary way.

To prepare for your Lectio Divina prayer time, **create a focal point** with the Scripture, the crib, a candle and a cloth.

Have the piece of Scripture visible so that all can see it. (See the back of this sheet)

Begin with **the sign of the cross** and perhaps **play** some quiet music to begin your reflection.

Tell the group – ‘You are going to be listening to some scripture and thinking about what it is saying to you. Try to listen carefully to the words and think about what God is trying to tell you.’

Read the scripture (not too quickly).

Say – ‘Reflect for a moment upon the scripture you have just heard. Think which words and phrases are most important for you. Think about what God is trying to tell you through this scripture’.

Pause for a while to allow everyone to think and reflect. Now ask someone to read the scripture for a second time.

Then invite people to **share aloud** the words or phrases that were important to them. Encourage each other to say why the words were chosen and why they have importance for a particular person.

Read the scripture for a third time. Pause at or use expression with the words and phrases people found important. You could even ring a little bell when the important words are spoken.

Play some quiet music for a while.

Say the closing prayer:

Thank you God for allowing us to hear your Word and to become closer to you; may we take your Word and use it in our lives.

Finish with: ‘Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.’

Don’t forget, if you would like to, to post a picture of your family joining in with this special activity to our Facebook Page. Also, complete a reflection about what you did in the reflective journal which will come back to school for the next family to complete.

The Nativity

Read this children's version of the angels visiting the shepherds from the gospel of Luke:

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a stable, because there was no room at the Inn. This happened at night time, and as usual the shepherds were out in the fields looking after their sheep. But suddenly, the sky was filled with light, and they saw the Messenger of God!

At first they were afraid. But then the messenger said: "Do not be afraid! I have some Good News for you and for everyone else as well. Jesus, the Lord, has been born this very night. You will find him wrapped in baby clothes and lying in a stable in Bethlehem."

Then the shepherds could hear the sound of many people singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth!" The shepherds didn't waste a minute. They quickly found the stable, and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, and they told them everything they had heard. Mary listened carefully to their story and she kept all these things in her mind. Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, thanking God for everything they had seen and heard.