

Brief devotional exercises are provided for you to begin each meeting with prayer and Scripture-reading. Use this time to prepare to listen to the Holy Spirit's guidance as you lead.

Lectio Divina or "Divine Reading" is a guided meditative reading of a Scripture text that incorporates prayer and silence for reflection and application. Use the following instructions to pray and meditate on Matthew 19:13-15 to begin your first meeting.

*Matthew 19:13-15*

*<sup>13</sup> Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.*

*<sup>14</sup> Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."<sup>15</sup> When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.*

1. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading of Scripture
2. Have one person slowly read the Scripture aloud. Listen for a word or phrase of particular interest or importance. Wait 90-120 seconds of silence.
3. Listen to the Scripture read aloud again. Silence.
4. Speak the word or phrase aloud as you feel led.
5. Close in prayer.