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| <p>Proposal<br/>Lectionary Bible Study Program</p> |
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Submitted by, Gloria Doino

**Purpose:**

- To gather together to review and study the Word of God as read and celebrated in the Lectionary's Sunday Scriptures. To abide in the Word in our daily lives.

**Short Term Goals:**

- To give an overview of the Books the readings are drawn from (when encountered for the first time by the group).
- To review the connections between the readings and develop the themes through reflection and discussion.
- To comment on the linguistic, Theological and cultural content of the readings for each Sunday and solemnity, in the three-year lectionary.
- To connect one's life experience to the realities of the Gospel and other Scriptures.

**Long Term Goals:**

- To Foster a spirit of community
- To provide prayerful support for one another
- To allow the Scriptures to transform us.

**Time Frame:**

- Trial period: Advent or Lent
- If the program is successful, hold yearly during Advent/Lent or weekly if response warrants.
- Sessions are weekly, but participants may come at their convenience, as sessions are not contingent one upon the other.
- Two facilitators and a core would commit to the weekly meeting.
- Group size – from 5-12 people ideally. Beyond 13, start another group.

**Bibliography Samples:**

- Pilch (Books on cultural background of Bible times)
- Birmingham, Mary "Word, Worship and Workbook"
- Assorted resources used (e.g., Library, Internet) and the most "up-to-date" scholarship will be researched by leaders
- Workbook for Lectors and Gospel readers
- Diane Bergant, *Preaching the New Lectionary*
- Barbara Brown Taylor, *Mixed Blessings*
- Robert Miller, *Fire in the Deep*

**Facilitators**

- Two volunteers

**Responsibilities of Facilitators:**

- Research background on readings.
- Provide participants with questions relating to above.
- Navigate sessions in an orderly and timely fashion for discussion and carry-over, beginning and ending promptly.
- Provide evaluation of program.

**Location:**

- Participants' homes or church space.

**Meeting Time:**

- Morning, afternoon or evening for 1 ½ hours (to be determined by the group).

**PROGRAM OUTLINE**

**Opening – 10 minutes**

- Opening prayer – Sunday psalm read or sung.
- Introduction of theme: Visual Gospel at center of table represented by one or two objects to highlight theme. Facilitator comments briefly by way of explanation of centerpiece (e.g. wedding rings point to a covenant theme).
- Vocabulary words explained – significant vocabulary (2-3 words) explained with visual aid and card on easel made up by leader.

**Presentation – 20 minutes:**

**First Reading:**

- Group reads Scripture silently.
- Overview of Biblical Book, if first time in this book.
- Facilitators present background information on culture, time, history, audience.
- Comments on reading presented by facilitators.
- Choral recitation of reading by group.

**Response to First Reading:**

- Round-Robin – name your experience. What struck you? Quick one or two phrase response elicited in round-robin fashion. Attempt to get all to respond briefly, without extended comments as a warm-up exercise.
- Dialogue with Scripture – interact with the Scripture through comments and or questions led by facilitators. Group discussion guided in a timely fashion. Followed by questions.

**Second Reading – 20 minutes**

- Same format as above stressing theme connections of one reading to the other.

**Gospel --- 40 minutes**

- GREATEST EMPHASIS and TIME is given to STUDY of the Gospel reading.
- If need be, other reading's time is adjusted or Gospel is studied first to ensure full coverage.
- Follow same format as before.

**Closing:**

- FINAL questions: In what way does the Lectionary of this Sunday invite change in your life in the days to come and in particular, this week?
- QUIET MOMENT: Reflect on above or write your thoughts in a journal in silence.
- Assignment of the next week's Sunday readings.
- Prayer of petition for group's needs (optional).
- Information Exchange – Dissemination of information of Scriptural interest (e.g., lectures or articles of interest). (Optional).

**Supplies:**

- Sunday Lectionary.
- Individual Journal or notebook..

**Program Evaluation:**

- Ongoing.

## **SUNDAY by SUNDAY** **...a Lectionary-based Bible Study**

**WHAT?** **SUNDAY by SUNDAY** is a ten-week program designed to explore the Word of God as celebrated in the Sunday Scriptures. Participants may attend weekly or at their choice, as sessions are self-contained. Days may be interchanged, when scheduling conflicts arise, as two groups are planned.

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| <b>WHEN?</b> | <i>Group A</i> | <i>Group B</i> |
|              | OR             |                |

**HOW?** **Format:**

- Themes are presented for each reading
- Background information is reviewed
- The relationship of the First (Old) Testament reading and the Epistle, to the assigned gospel is considered
- Carry over to one's daily life is encouraged through sharing, prayer and reflection
- No prior experience necessary

**WHERE?** **Room to be announced**

**WHO?** The Lectionary belongs to everyone...  
Parents/Seniors/Lectors/Parishioners at large

**WHY?** To set aside time to prepare for the Sunday Proclamations!  
To feel at home with the Word of God!  
To let the Word take root in your heart!

**Facilitator:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Register by phone or at the door**