



Lectio Terra In-Person Facilitation Guide *created by Ben Yosua-Davis*

Guidelines And Suggestions for Facilitators

- 1) *If you don't feel like you know much about the Bible or ecology, (let alone the two put together,) don't worry. Your job is not to be the expert, it's simply to keep group process as people encounter God, scripture, and the land together.*
- 2) *Pay attention to keeping the time. Sometimes, that will mean holding silence non-anxiously and letting the conversation unfold at its own pace, and at other points may mean inviting the group to move to the next part of the process even if the discussion is not quite wrapped up. You may find bringing a bell or chime to be helpful to call people into and out of the Lectio Terra time.*
- 3) *This guide is intended for a Lectio Terra session of about 1.5 hours in duration. Though sessions could be shorter, allocating at least 90 minutes is preferable to allow spaciousness in participating and sharing. Suggested times for each section are given, but feel free to adjust according to your group's needs.*

Scripture Passages

You are welcome to use any Scripture passages which are resonant for you and your group. As a starting point, we offer the following suggested passages:

- Psalm 96:11-13
- Job 12:7-12
- Joel 2:21-24
- Proverbs 30:24-28
- Romans 8:19-25
- Mark 1:9-13
- Isaiah 11:6-9
- Isaiah 55:8-13
- Revelation 22:1-5

Lectio Terra Session

Introductions And Connecting *(suggested time: 5 - 10 minutes)*

Invite people to briefly share their name and the place they call home.

Go first so you can model this.

Sharing the Three Intentions *(suggested time: 5 minutes)*

Three Intentions:

- **Share from the heart:** In this space, we are invited to “listen with the ears of the heart,” rather than to engage in academic study or action planning. None of us have to be leaders and experts. Instead, we’re all fellow wisdom-seekers, seeking to learn together about what it means to find our roots again in the soil of the traditions we’re a part of and the very real places we call home. In that spirit, you are invited to share from the heart first. For instance, when we engage in Lectio Terra, this is not about what the scripture “means” as much as it is what it “means to you” and how God and the more-than-human community speak to you through it.
- **Share with Spaciousness:** In this space, I invite you to commit to creating space for Spirit to speak. If you are the sort of person for whom speaking comes easily, we commit to take a step back, to make sure that everyone has a chance to share. If you are the sort of person who finds sharing difficult, I invite you to take a step forward to share what’s on your heart, even if it doesn’t always feel fully formed. We will receive all of what we share in a posture of listening and curiosity, rather than answering or fixing. Our job is not to solve each other’s problems, but simply to accompany each other on the journey.
- **Share with Confidentially:** I invite us to commit to holding this space as a confidential one, so that we can share vulnerably with one another. What we share stays in this circle together, and we also commit to asking for permission before we talk to someone about something brought up in this space outside of this group.

Ask: Are there other intentions we should name?

Introduce Lectio Terra *(suggested time: 10 minutes)*

Hand out the Lectio Terra Participant Guide, the scripture passage, and then explain the process. You can more or less read it from the Participant Guide.

Encourage participants not to spend too much time looking for a space, but to sit in the first place that draws them.

Invite them to put on a timer, so they know when they need to return. *Invite them to set it however long you want them to engage with Lectio Terra, minus five minutes. E.g. If Lectio Terra is going to be 30 minutes, invite them to set it for twenty five.)*

Invite them to do this in a spirit of silence: to go out in silence, and save your speech for God and the land, rather than for others. When you return, simply sit and rest in the silence, and you will invite them into discussion together.

Invite someone to read the scripture passage out loud, and then the group can depart in silence. If you have a chime, you could ring it here.

Lectio Terra (*suggested time: 25 – 30 minutes*)

Each group member moves out to a time of solitude and silence to engage with the scripture passage in the natural world.

Reflection (*suggested time: 30 minutes or more*)

You could ring a bell or chime to transition participants from silence into discussion.

- “I invite us into a time of sharing together. For this first round of sharing, I invite you to share ‘What did you experience or encounter?’ After you share, I invite you to call on someone else to share. If you are not ready to share, feel free to say ‘Not yet’ and if you’d prefer to pass, simply say ‘pass.’ Once everyone has shared, we’ll open the time up for group reflection.”
- After everyone has had the opportunity to share or pass, invite them into a time of open sharing. You can offer the question, “What’s resonating with you?”
- After the open sharing, invite participants to respond to the question: “Who do you feel invited to be as result of this experience?”

Prayer

“I invite you to lift up your prayer requests for yourselves, for one another, for this world, including our human and other-than-human kin. At the end of each one, I will say ‘God, in your mercy’ and together we will say, ‘Hear our prayer.’”

At the end, offer a closing prayer.