

Scripture Sharing



1. Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Begin asking for the presence of the Holy Spirit, asking the Holy Spirit to open your hearts to receive the Word. This prayer to the Holy Spirit could be a spontaneous prayer led by the facilitator, or a prayer that is already written. You could also begin with a song to the Holy Spirit.

Here is one example of a short song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pXFmZBTTEU> excerpt of the Holy Father's March 15 2013 address.

*"This is a prayer we must pray every day: **"Holy Spirit, make my heart open to the word of God, make my heart open to goodness, make my heart open to the beauty of God every day"**. I would like to ask everyone a question: how many of you pray every day to the Holy Spirit? There will not be many, but we must fulfill Jesus' wish and pray every day to the Holy Spirit that he opens our heart to Jesus."*

2. Proclamation

One person says which passage you will be sharing. The person provides the bible reference and gives the others the time to locate it in their own Bibles or Sunday missal. Be sure to help one another, if there are people less familiar with looking up bible passages. One recommendation that you choose the Gospel for the Sunday. The person who is proclaiming (reading aloud) the text should stand if able; the others close their Bibles and listen deeply. This can help everyone be more attentive and sometimes we may have different translations of the Bible. When reading the Scripture aloud, be sure to read clearly and don't rush through.

3. Silence

Silence can allow the Word of God to reach our hearts deeper. You may choose a brief three to five minutes of complete silence, some may choose to reread the text silently in their own Bible. At this time the facilitator may invite everyone to think of a particular word or phrase from the scripture that stood out to them or caught their attention during the proclamation or their own reading.

4. Share a word or phrase that stood out to you.

This time of sharing allows each person the opportunity to share a word or phrase aloud, without anyone commenting on it. Everybody else listens to this sharing in fullness, silently repeating the word or verse to themselves; they wait a moment before welcoming what the next person to share. This allows the Word of God to continue to deepen in the hearts within the group.

5. Second Proclamation of the Scripture

Another member stands up, if able, to proclaim the same Word of God. Once again, everyone else is invited to close their Bible and listen attentively.

6. Sharing about the text in the context of the question, “What is the Good News that I am discovering in this text?”

Following the second proclamation of the Gospel, the facilitator invites everyone to answer the question: “*What is the Good News that I am discovering in this text?*” Allow a few minutes of silence for personal reflection. Then, each person shares the Good News they received through this text and how it impacts their own faith. To ensure that such exchanges remain on a personal level, each person should try to express themselves in the first person: “I...”, “For me...”, “What I see in this text is...”, “I am discovering...”. This is a time of sharing. It is not meant to become a discussion. A scripture sharing is not the place to explain to someone what the meaning of the text, but it is rather to share how it resonates in the heart, how it is welcomed and what it means personally.

7. Third Proclamation

Another member proclaims the Scripture in the same way as the first two times with quiet moments.

8. Personal Prayer or Contemplation

Each person prays silently for approximately five minutes, reflecting on their own observations and meditation, as well as what the others shared. They choose to pray silently in their own words, that connects in some way to the scripture they’ve just heard. This can be in the form of trust, praise, thanksgiving, penance, petition, intercession or asking God how to bring this Scripture fully into their lives. This quiet prayer time is a special time with God that allows us to enter deeper relationship with Him. Listening to and welcoming the Word leads to this intimate dialogue.

9. Sharing of Prayer

Finally, each person may choose to share one or two expressions of their prayer. This is a beautiful way of experiencing the fruit of our time together with the Lord, present in our gathering, as a group. When the Word of God is welcomed, shared, and prayed, the Word of God can nourish the group’s prayer and allow the gathering to conclude in a deeper relational encounter with God and one another.

Adapted from: *Le partage évangélique, Guide d’animation. Église catholique de Québec*
We sincerely thank the Diocese of Quebec for sharing the spirit of Households with us, as well as many tools and documents produced by their Households team and Communications Service, and for giving us permission to adapt them for our diocese.