

WORD WORKING

is as simple as one, two, three. It works this way...

1. Look ahead to the next Sunday's Scripture readings.

The Gospel is always given preference but the other readings may be used. Remember the psalm is a reading and may be used.

Using the Sunday Readings, we reflect with the Church throughout the world and we prepare for Sunday Liturgy, which is the source and summit of our Christian Life. Using the Sunday Readings allows God's Word as it is provided to us through the Liturgy to lead and guide us rather than our choosing Scriptures that we might think or feel would fit our purposes or plans.

2. The Scripture passage is proclaimed aloud three times.

Slowly read the Scripture passage aloud

Notice a word, a phrase, idea, image or thought that strikes you personally. Repeat it a few times to yourself. Each person speaks their word or words aloud when they are invited to share using "mutual invitation".

Slowly read the Scripture passage again.

Answer the second question. After a period of reflective quiet (1 minute), using mutual invitation each person shares with the group how the Scripture is speaking currently to his or her life, relationships, work, events in society and the world in response to the question that was presented for reflection.

Slowly read the Scripture passage aloud a third time.

Silently reflect on what God is asking you to do or change. After a period of reflective quiet (1 minute), using mutual invitation each person shares with the group, what he or she believes God is asking them to do or to change in their life, relationships, work, events in society and the world.

3. End the session with a circle of prayer.

Participants join hands in a circle. The leader shares prayer aloud, completing the phrases "Thank you God..." and "Please God..." A hand squeeze signals the next person to share his or her prayer completing the same phrases.

If one wishes to pass on offering their prayer aloud, he or she merely squeezes the hand of the person next to them without explanation when they are finished with their silent prayer.

Everyone joins together in praying the Lord's Prayer.



Simple Instructions

After reading the first time...invite to share, a word, a phrase, idea, image or thought.

After reading the second time...invite to share on a question that can be especially designed for the occasion. Such as...Where do we see this in the life of our Diocese or Parish or Family? A question is also provided at www.dcdiocese.org (Click on Word Working Second Question)

After reading the third time...invite to share...what I am called to do or what I am called to change.

Then move around the circle...offering prayer of thanks and petition
(Thank you God ...Please God...) Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer together.

Remember one is always free to pass.

Key Points:

- *This is prayer.*
- *Contributions are shorter rather than longer; personal, honest, using "I" rather than "we" statements.*
- *Be careful not to make this a discussion...That will end the prayer experience.*
- *Do not interrupt the person speaking, do not ask for clarification, or affirm or disagree with what is said. Peacefully listen to God's word and share what it said to you personally...*
- *Silent moments are golden. Let God's message resonate and slowly deepen in you. Relax and savor God's word or someone's contribution.*
- *Following the prayer experience, you may have a free flowing discussion, if you wish.*
- *If questions arise during Word Working, email the diocesan theologian, Msgr. Brian Moore, PhD at bmoore@dcdiocese.org*