

Process for Weekly Lectionary Bible Study at St. John's, Tower Grove

The weekly Sunday readings may be found at this website. The Episcopal Church now uses the "RCL" (Revised Common Lectionary) readings. <http://www.io.com/~kellywp/>

Each Thursday, the Bible Study group will be studying the scripture readings for the coming Sunday.

1. Gather at 5:30 p.m.

The facilitator for the week starts the group with an opening prayer – extemporaneous or use a collect from the *Book of Common Prayer* or another source

2. The facilitator announces the text that s/he has chosen for Bible Study. (Typically, there is only time to read and discuss one of the readings.)

The facilitator asks one member of the group to read the scripture aloud, reminding the entire group to "Listen for a word or phrase that strikes you."

3. After the first reader reads the selected scripture, a period of silence is kept for at least a minute. The facilitator breaks the silence by asking, "What word or phrase strikes you?"

In no particular order, each member of the group briefly shares the single word or phrase that strikes him/her *without commentary*.

4. The facilitator asks another member of the group to read the scripture passage aloud (ideally, using a different translation). This time, the members of the group will "listen for a feeling or image evoked by this passage."

5. After the second reader reads the selected scripture passage, a period of silence is kept for at least a minute. The facilitator breaks the silence by asking, "What feeling or image is evoked by this passage?"

In no particular order, each member of the group shares the feeling or image that this passage evoked. This discussion may be more fluid, although the facilitator should make sure to wrap it up by 6:05 p.m.

6. The facilitator asks a third member of the group to read the scripture passage aloud (ideally, using a third translation). This time, the members will consider "What is God calling you to this week through this scripture passage?"

7. After the third reader reads the selected scripture passage, a period of silence is kept for at least a minute. The facilitator breaks the silence by asking, "What is God calling you to this week through this scripture passage?"

In no particular order, each member of the group shares his or her thoughts about what God is calling him/her to through the scripture passage.

8. At 6:30 p.m., the facilitator wraps up the conversation and closes the group with prayer – Night Prayer, Evening Prayer, or Compline, as the facilitator chooses.