

# SOIL CARE

Lectio Divina

30 X 60 X 100

# Lectio Divina | John 15:1-11

Adapted with permission from [Soul Shepherding](#).

## Lectio Divina Process

Since the 6th Century when Benedict of Nursia developed Lectio Divina as a way of listening to God in a Bible text people have been using this discipline to help them open their hearts to Christ and one another. Lectio Divina can help us grow in our discipleship to Jesus Christ.

Hearing God's voice with confidence takes practice. A great way to learn is through Lectio Divina, a method of Scripture meditation developed by Benedict in the sixth century. Three times we read the Bible passage and then pray or journal quietly for a few minutes to help us listen to the Spirit. Each reading is guided by a focus question listed below. In a group context follow the leader's instructions to know when you can share your responses. Be sure to protect people's confidentiality.

## Introduction to the Text

Jesus knows he is about to be crucified. He celebrates the Passover with his disciples, washes their feet, and then shares some "last words" from his heart. He says the way to live joyful, fruitful lives is to abide (or remain) in him as a branch abides in a vine. This is how Jesus lived: *he abided continually in the Father*. We abide in Jesus Christ by abiding in his words and obeying them from our hearts. It's all about love for God and one another.

## John 15 The Voice

<sup>1</sup> **Jesus:** I am the true vine, and My Father is the keeper of the vineyard. <sup>2</sup> My Father examines every branch in Me and cuts away those who do not bear fruit. He leaves those bearing fruit and carefully prunes them so that they will bear more fruit; <sup>3</sup> already you are clean because you have heard My voice. <sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I will abide in you. A branch cannot bear fruit if it is disconnected from the vine, and neither will you if you are not connected to Me.

5 I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you abide in Me and I in you, you will bear great fruit. Without Me, you will accomplish nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is like a branch that is tossed out and shrivels up and is later gathered to be tossed into the fire to burn. 7 If you abide in Me and My voice abides in you, anything you ask will come to pass for you. 8 Your abundant growth and your faithfulness as My followers will bring glory to the Father.

At a time when all of His disciples are feeling as if they are about to be uprooted, Jesus sketches a picture of this new life as a flourishing vineyard—a labyrinth of vines and strong branches steeped in rich soil, abundant grapes hanging from their vines ripening in the sun. Jesus sculpts a new garden of Eden in their imaginations—one that is bustling with fruit, sustenance, and satisfying aromas. This is the Kingdom life. It is all about connection, sustenance, and beauty. But within this promise of life is the warning that people must be in Christ or they will not experience these blessings.

**Jesus:** 9 I have loved you as the Father has loved Me. Abide in My love. 10 Follow My example in obeying the Father's commandments and receiving His love. If you obey My commandments, you will stay in My love. 11 I want you to know the delight I experience, to find ultimate satisfaction, which is why I am telling you all of this.

## Prayer / Journaling / Soul Talk Prompts

1. Imagine sitting in a garden with Jesus speaking these words to your heart. What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? In silence meditate on that and write down your thoughts.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What do you feel? What longings in your heart begin to surface? What

specific situation in your life today relates? Journal these down, write down a prayer or pray quietly.

3. What is Jesus' personal invitation to you from the Scripture? You can write down what the Lord may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or simply rest quietly in the Spirit's presence.

Go deeper into Lectio Divinas at  
<https://www.soulshpherdng.org/lectio-divina-guides/> and  
<https://shop.soulshpherdng.org/products/lectio-divina-guide>