



Parking lot Afternoon of Prayer and Blessing

As social distancing has caused for some very creative ideas and safe offerings, coordinate a drive-in afternoon of prayer and blessing of the Bibles in the church parking lot.

Select and plan for an afternoon hour of sharing and praying with Scripture, and for a blessing of Bibles. Invite families to gather and remain in their cars, parked in the church parking lot at your set time. Ask them to roll down a window or two to hear. If you have a local Catholic radio station, you may solicit their coverage of your afternoon of prayer so that the group could hear over the radio. Another option may be to rent out a local drive-in theatre. Invite all parishioners to be sure they bring at least one person with them, in their car, for sharing in conversation.

With a microphone system, welcome everyone. Explain that you will begin your time together in prayer, followed by an opportunity to break open the Scriptures with their family or friends seated in their car. A blessing of the Bibles will follow.

- I. Welcome everyone and provide an outline of your time together.
- II. Begin with prayer:

Leader: We gather today to honor the gift of Sacred Scripture in our lives. The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God. It is the Living Word made flesh in Jesus and alive now through the Spirit who lives, moves, and has being within each of us, as promised by Jesus and given to us at our Baptism. This is a holy book, the sacred stories of God's people—their experiences of faith in the one God who loves his people and wants a relationship with them. As Catholics, we are encouraged to read and reflect on the pages of the Bible so that we may be nourished, strengthened, and continually formed into faithful disciples who continue the mission of Jesus Christ.

Let us pray. Good and Gracious God, we gather today to break open and hear your Living Word for each of us, and to deepen our relationship with you. Inspire our understanding, as we break open your Word with one another. May it lead us to greater unity and care for one another, so that we may be one in you. In the name of Jesus, we pray.

All: Amen.



- III. Announce the distribution of the steps to follow to break open the Scripture with those seated in each car. (***Break Open the Word Together***)
- IV. Regather the attention of the group with a song that reflects the message of the Scripture selected. Plan for the song to be led by a cantor/song leader. Keep it simple.
- V. Invite those who wish to come to the microphone and share with the whole group their insights and reflections on the Scripture. Adhere to safety protocols, such as mask wearing and social distancing.
- VI. End the time together by using the blessing of the Bibles provided. Begin with the prayer, in the first presider paragraph:

We ask the Holy Spirit, who inspired these writings, to stir our hearts and deepen our desire to reflect upon these holy Scriptures. May we seek a deeper relationship with the Lord through these texts and find our nourishment and strength to live in its message of love.

Follow the prayer as outlined. Conclude with a final blessing by the parish priest. If a priest is not available, adapt the blessing of the Bibles, in the final presider paragraph, with this:

We ask your blessing upon each of us as we bless our homes and our lives with these Holy Bibles. We make our prayer, in blessing ourselves, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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Breaking Open the Word Together

Opening comments (made by the leader)

The process and steps will be explained, so all will know how best to participate.

The Scripture to be proclaimed and reflected upon is:

The leader will briefly describe the story, the characters, and what you should listen for or pay attention to.

Proclamation of the Word (from the microphone)

Please open your Bibles and turn to the selected Scripture passage, noted above. Follow along as the Scripture is proclaimed.

Silence

Invite everyone in the car to take a few moments of silence to reflect on what they heard.

Initial questions

What did you hear?
What words or phrases grabbed your attention?
What feelings did this reading evoke in you?

Sharing

Facilitate the sharing among those in your car. Simplify for children.
Invite thoughts and insights from each person without judgment.

Brief exegesis

Use the articles or sidebars in your Bible that may help to better understand the passage, or the leader will offer a deeper explanation of the passage from the microphone.

Deeper question

What do you think God's message for you is in this passage?
In what ways will this cause you to grow closer to the Lord?
In what ways does this connect to the mission of Jesus?

Sharing

Living the message

What are some of the concrete ways you are willing to put your faith into action this week, given what the Lord is asking of you in this passage?