

Lesson Plan for Lesson 36

Praying with Scripture

Preparation and Supplies

- Study chapter 36, “Praying with Scripture,” in the handbook.
- Gather Bibles, one for each participant.
- Make four copies of the handout “Loving God and One Another” (Document #: TX003431).
- Write the name of each participant on a slip of paper and place it in a basket on the prayer table.

Pray It! (5 minutes)

Tell the participants that class will begin with a reading from the Book of Psalms. **Distribute** a Bible to each young person. **Direct** the young people to look up Psalm 16. Then **direct** them to form two groups, and ask one group to read aloud the first portion of the psalm and the other group to read aloud the second portion.

Study It! (35 to 45 minutes, depending on your class length)

A. Faith, Hope, and Love

1. **Ask** the participants to find a partner and discuss the following questions:
 - What is the first Scripture story you remember hearing?
 - Who told or read it to you?
 - Why was it meaningful?

Invite a few volunteers to share their answers with the rest of the class.

2. **Direct** the young people to read the chapter introduction and the sections “Faith, Hope, and Love” and “The Living Word,” on pages 393–396 in the handbook. The content covers points 1 through 5 on the handout “Lesson 36 Summary” (Document #: TX003430).
3. **(Optional) Direct** the participants to the Live It! “Where to Turn in the Bible for Prayer,” on page 395 in the handbook, and conduct a discussion on how Scripture relates to everyday events.

B. Getting Started

1. **Direct** the young people to form groups, and distribute a Bible to each group. **Direct** them to the Pray It! “Praying the Psalms,” on page 399 in the handbook. **Assign** each group one of the psalms



listed in the sidebar. **Explain** that each group is to read their assigned psalm and then rewrite it in their own words. **Post** the psalms around the room for all to see.

2. **Direct** the participants to read the sections “Getting Started” and “*Lectio Divina*,” on pages 396–400 in the handbook. The content covers points 6 and 7 on the handout “Lesson 36 Summary.”
3. **(Optional) Invite** questions and observations on the content. You might also invite discussion on the Reflect questions on page 398 in the handbook to help the young people reflect on their own experience of using the Bible for prayer.

C. Ignatian Gospel Contemplation

Direct the participants to read the section “Ignatian Gospel Contemplation,” on pages 400–402 in the handbook. The content covers point 8 on the handout “Lesson 36 Summary.”

Note: If you are running short on time, you may wish to just briefly summarize this section of the handbook.

Live It! (15 to 20 minutes)

1. **Direct** the young people to form groups of three or four. **Provide** each group with a Bible. **Ask** each group to designate a leader who will proclaim the Scripture passage to his or her group when prompted to do so. **Assign** each group one of the following Scripture texts:
 - Genesis, chapter 1 (God creates the world.)
 - Exodus 16:4–15 (God sends food to the Israelites.)
 - Psalm 139 (God knows us.)
 - Luke 6:37–42 (Do not judge other people.)
 - John 8:2–11 (A woman is caught in adultery.)
 - Acts 20:7–12 (A young man is restored to life.)
 - Romans 8:31–39 (Nothing can separate us from God’s love.)
2. **Review** with the participants key points in the process known as *lectio divina*, which can be found on pages 398–400 in the handbook.

Explain the task as follows:

- The group leaders are to read the designated Scripture passage aloud, pausing at the end. The rest of the group members should listen for a word or phrase that touches their heart. When they find a word or phrase, they should silently take it in and ponder it.
- After the silence, each person shares with her or his group the word or phrase that has touched her or his heart.
- The group leaders then read the passage a second time and tell the group to ponder the question, How does the word or phrase that has touched my heart touch my life this day?
- After a pause for silence, the participants should share with their groups what they have heard or seen.
- The group leaders read their passages a third and final time, telling the group to ponder the question, What is Christ calling me to do or to become today or this week?
- After a pause for silence, the participants should share their answers with their groups.



- Finally, each person is to silently pray for all the members of the group, that they will be able to embrace the *actio* step and respond to God.
3. If there is time when all the groups have completed the process, **discuss** how each group's experience or interpretation of the Scripture text changed throughout the process.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

The closing prayer is from the handout "Loving God and One Another" (Document #: TX003431). Following any announcements, **select** three readers and give each reader a copy of the handout. **Ask** the readers to read their assigned questions at the appropriate time during the prayer. Then lead the class in praying the prayer on the handout.

