**What is Arise Together in Christ?**

**Personal Invitation**

An invitation for you to encounter Christ in new ways

An invitation to experience Jesus personally in Scripture

An invitation to experience Jesus in yourself and in others through Small Faith Sharing Groups

An invitation to enter into personal Prayer and deepen your prayer life

An invitation to reinvigorate your faith

An invitation to come back alive in your faith with a new sense of discipleship mission.

An invitation to recognize the empowerment of the Holy Spirit Again and anew,

An invitation to allow the Holy Spirit to be the center of your daily living. An invitation to Arise Together in Christ with others in our Faith Communities and throughout the Diocese.



**FAITH SHARING - Where does the practice of Faith Sharing come from?**

Rooted in the old Christian Practice of Lectio Divina, Divine Reading or reading under the eyes of God until your heart is touched or moved.



[This Photo](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lectio_Divina.svg) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)

Lectio Divina is not a process of acquiring knowledge (although it may be one of its fruits)

Lectio Divina is primarily about encountering God, listening to Gods word and surrendering to it.

Faith Sharing takes lectio and brings it one step further, which is sharing the fruits of the Divine reading with others

**THE BASIC STEPS OF FAITH SHARING**

Always begins with Prayer

1. We invite God to come into our hearts

We open our minds, hearts and souls to receive the Word or the message of our divine reading We read or listen to the text.

We let God speak to us in silence

1. We "notice' the words or phrases that touch our heart, stir something within us, challenge us or correct us.

We ask ourselves: how is my fife touched or moved by this Scripture passage?

Is there an invitation for me here?

We share what we have heard in our hearts.

We commit to some action Individually or as a group

It is important that at the end of the session we ask ourselves: "What is God calling me (us) to? How can I respond?

1. We pray together for God's continuous guidance in our life.

**Important distinctions of Faith Sharing (what it is and what it is not)**

**What Faith Sharing is:**

* Rooted in the belief that God is always present and active in my life.
* Faith sharing invites me to articulate this presence and action of God.
  + How am I experiencing Gods presence at this moment?
  + What is my image of God/Jesus in this Scripture passage?
  + How am I challenged to see God’s presence and action in my daily life
* Sharing how I was touched, called or challenged by the Scripture passage.
  + What word or phrase spoke to my heart?
  + How did I understand the Scripture passage in a new way?
  + How did I feel personally called or challenged by God’s word?
* Sometimes the fruit of our prayer may be questions without answers.
* Am I being moved to ask the group to pray for me?

**What Faith sharing is not:**

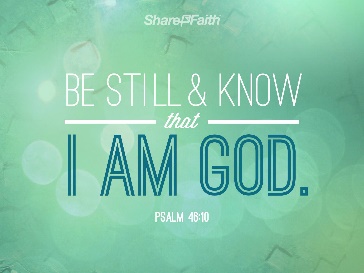
* A Scripture study or discussion
* A Show and tell of how much I know about Scripture or theology
* A time to resolve my problems or the problems of others
* A time to tell my whole story
* A time to preach to the group
* A time to complain
* A time to debate

**FAITH SHARING VERSES DISCUSSION**

**Faith Sharing** refers to shared reflection on the action of God in one’s life experience as related to specific Scripture passages.

Faith Sharing is not necessarily discussion, problem solving or Scripture study.

The Purpose of Faith sharing is actually to personally encounter Christ.

**FAITH SHARING:**

* Participants talk about their lived experiences
* Subjective and personal
* No advice or suggestions
* Concern for affirming members
* Relationship oriented
* Response of acceptance
* Become personal and moves to depth issues

**DISCUSSION:**

* Talks centers around ideas and opinions
* Objective and impersonal
* Offers answers and attempts to fix things
* Concern for correctness and accuracy
* Task oriented
* Response of analysis
* Stays “out there,” inconsequential issues

**Helpful tips for effective Faith Sharing**

1. Confidentiality must be maintained.
2. Start and end on time.
3. Focus on **FAITH SHARING**