

Going Deeper into Scripture

We can experience Scripture in many ways. Consider sharing with your congregation some aids to help Scripture “sink in.” For each of the Sundays in Lent, encourage congregants to use one or more of the following aids:

FOR VISUAL LEARNERS

- Encourage journaling one Sunday as the text is read. Have pen and paper available, or encourage congregants to bring a journal from home to write words, create mind maps, doodle, or draw as Scripture is read.
- Make photocopies of the text and have various colors of pencils/markers/crayons available. Encourage congregants to color-code/index/highlight the text as it is read.
- Invite congregants to use their imagination as the text is read, suggesting that they create an internal movie of the Scripture passage. Encourage participants to write down what they see in their mind’s eye.
- Find a DVD or online video of the Scripture being read and play it in the service.
- Find art that connects with the Scripture, or commission a congregant to create an art piece, and encourage congregants to focus on the art as Scripture is read.

FOR AUDITORY LEARNERS

- Use multiple voices for the Scripture reading, being aware of the sounds that the readers are conveying.
- Read the Scripture twice with a different reader each time to increase the sound range.
- Encourage congregants to close their eyes as the Scripture is being read to bring the auditory sense to the foreground.
- Give congregants opportunity to process the Scripture verbally—time to share in small groups or with a neighbor during the service.

FOR CONTEMPLATIVE LEARNERS

- Read Scripture in a *lectio divina* style.
- Encourage congregants to insert themselves in the story. Ask congregants to pay attention to the text’s sensory elements—to focus on what they taste, see, smell, hear, and feel going on. Think of Henri Nouwen’s *Prodigal Son* as an example.
- Encourage congregants to journal ideas that spring to mind from the Scripture.
- Encourage congregants to meditate for a few moments before Scripture is read.

FOR ACTIVE LEARNERS

- Encourage congregants to find some movement while Scripture is being read. Examples include:
 - Use a symbol, such as that of outstretched arms, that recurs throughout the reading and ask everyone to participate in using the body action at the same time. Be mindful of different bodily abilities when developing this symbol.
 - Ask congregants to stand while Scripture is being read.
 - Lead congregants through a labyrinth while reading the Scripture passages.
- Encourage congregants to write “action points” (goals, next steps) in a journal and follow them through.
- Use a role play or readers theater presentation for the Scripture passages.