

## **John 10:1-10**

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

## African Bible Study Method (a form of Lectio Divina)

This Lectio Divina form was introduced by the African Delegation to the Lambeth Conference of the Worldwide Anglican Communion (of which The Episcopal Church is one province). It is known by both names: “Lambeth” and “African Bible Study”.

### Opening Prayer

O Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning. Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**It's important to set up group norms so people feel more comfortable to share including but not limited to: Anything said is kept strictly confidential. No cross talking. Listen deeply. Pray for one another between sessions.**

1. One person reads selected passage slowly. Silence follows as:
2. Each person identifies the word or phrase that catches their attention (1 minute)
3. Each shares the word or phrase around the group (3-5 minutes) without discussion at all.
4. A second reading is made, preferably by someone of the opposite gender. Silence follows as:
5. Each person identifies where this passage touches their life today (1 minute)
6. Each shares without discussion at all. (5 - 10 minutes) If group meets regularly and really develops relationships this step may be extended given the wishes and cohesiveness of the group.
7. A third reading of the passage is made (by someone who has not read the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> time) Silence follows as:
8. Each person identifies or writes “In light of the scripture, what I’ve shared, and what I’ve heard, what do I believe God is nudging me to do? Is God inviting me to change in any way? (5 minutes)
9. Each person shares their answer. (5 – 10 minutes depending on size of group and can be expanded as group wishes. No discussion or advice is given. Each is deeply heard. Each deeply listens.
10. Each prays for the person on their right, naming what was shared in the other steps (5-10 minutes).
11. Close with the Lord’s Prayer and Silence.

**Note:** The following is an excellent website for audio lectio divina that follows our weekly Lectionary: <http://alivenow.upperroom.org/audio-lectio/>