

Lectio Divina

Romans 13:1-10

Description: The purpose of this station is to allow space for the Holy Spirit to bring edification through the confrontation of scripture. Romans 13 speaks plainly of the believer's responsibility to honor governing authorities. While the verses appear straightforward at first read, a second and third reading will illuminate challenging questions that draw us closer to the Lord through sincere truth seeking. The Holy Spirit must illuminate the Word and bring understanding, addressing the heart, mind, and will.

Supplies

- Table covered with butcher paper
- Sharpies
- Colored pencils
- Chairs

Instructions:

The First Century Church lived in a time of divisive political faction just as we live today. The first disciples were learning to follow the Way of Jesus in the midst of cultural upheaval. Paul took time to write to the Believers in Rome on how to address honor authority, including government and political leaders.

Read Romans 13:1-10

Pause. Invite the Lord to reveal His heart through the passage.

Read the scripture again, this time out loud if you are comfortable doing so.

Are there any words that make you uncomfortable? What about the passage resonates and what feels uncomfortable? In the context of Paul's words what is the role of civil disobedience and peaceful protest?

Read Romans 13:1-10 again. What word or phrase stood out to you as you read?

Write it on the table.

Express your honest emotions to the Lord. You may find yourself asking questions, confessing areas of bitterness or being stirred in prayer for those in authority. Follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. Write your prayer on the table.

Pray for the Believers in your city to demonstrate love and good deeds.

Pray for the Church in America to display meekness and humility in their submission to governing authorities.

Pray for wisdom for all those who follow Jesus, to know when to act in peaceful protest.

Pray for those who are protesting the authority they are under to have pure hearts and a hunger for righteousness.