

God and a Photograph

by Beth Beall



Lectio divina (LEK-see-oh di-VEEN-uh) means "holy reading." When we do lectio divina, we slow down and pay attention. Why? Because God is with us and maybe God wants to say something to us. In this activity, you'll "read" a photograph with God at your side.

For

Just for Kids

Season

Spring

Needed

Photograph of a magnolia tree flower, provided below.

Optional materials: paper; pencil, markers, colored pencils or crayons

Activity Plan

1. Begin with a prayer. Maybe you want to pray silently. If you'd like to use words, you might try these:

"Loving God, I know you are always with me. Help me to look at this photo with the eyes of my heart, and to hear whatever you might want to say to me. Amen."

2. Find a comfortable place to sit or lie down. Look quietly at the photograph for a little while.
3. Whenever you are ready, think or talk about one or more of the following questions. You might also like to write or draw your responses.
 - If this flower could speak to you, what might it say?
 - How many different colors can you find in this photograph?
 - I wonder how God feels when looking at this flower?
 - Notice what the flower is holding gently in one of its petals: the pieces of itself that are falling off from the center. Who are some of the people who hold you gently?
 - Describe the place where you think this flower lives.
4. Spend a few more moments looking quietly at the photo.

5. Finish your lectio divina by doing something called "contemplation" (con-tem-PLAY-shun). Contemplation means resting in God. You might want to keep looking at the flower, or not. Quiet your heart by taking a couple deep breaths. Then rest for as long as you'd like.
6. As you rest, maybe you will feel God speak to you, or maybe not. God loves the beautiful magnolia flower and God loves you. God has been with you as you've looked at the photograph. Rest.
7. *Optional follow-up: On another day, find a photograph somewhere in your home. Or ask an adult in the house to help you find one. Spend time looking at and listening to that photograph, just as you did with the photograph of the magnolia flower.*



Photograph by Beth Beall

