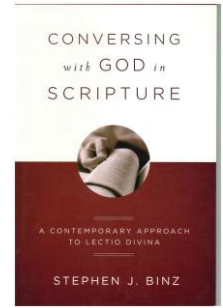


Assignment Instructions: Read *Conversing with God in Scripture* and then *pray* using this method at least three times, using the suggestions provided in chapter nine. (See question 5 below.) Then answer each of the following questions in full, citing references from the text and from the Bible. Please type your answers on a separate sheet.



1. In Chapter One, the author tells us that the source of all genuine prayer is an interior desire for God. What is the origin of this desire? How do you experience this interior desire?
2. List the movements of *lectio divina* according to this author. Which movement is the most comfortable for you? Which is the most challenging?
3. In Chapter Three, the author suggests that the movements of *lectio divina* are best described as a circle rather than a ladder. What do you think he means by that? What are the risks of viewing *lectio divina* as a ladder reaching into heaven?
4. In Chapter Six, the author suggests that *contemplatio* is “a heart-to-heart” encounter with God.
 - a. Explain what he means.
 - b. Have you experienced *contemplatio* as part of your encounter with God’s Word in the Biblical School? How might you cultivate the gift of contemplation during this next year in the Biblical School? How might your small group assist with this goal?
5. In Chapter Nine, the author guides you through the four primary movements of “The Practice of Lectio Divina” by engaging seven scriptural passages: (1) Exodus 3:1-15 – Moses at the Burning Bush; (2) 1 Kings 19:4-13 – Elijah Meets God on the Mountain; (3) Psalm 13 – A Lament; (4) Psalm 139 – Surrendering to God’s Presence; (5) Mark 10:13-16 – Jesus and the Little Children; (6) Matthew 20:1-16 – The Parable of the Workers; (7) Mark 4: 35-41 – The Storm on the Sea.
 - a. Choose *at least three* of these passages to pray with, one at a time, over the course of the summer, following Binz’s guidance in Chapter Nine. What three passages did you choose? Which of the passages you chose spoke most meaningfully to you? Why do you think that was?
 - b. Using the *one* passage that spoke most meaningfully to you, write a journal entry based on your own *lectio divina* of that passage. Begin by writing out the word(s) or phrase(s) that struck you most powerfully in your reading, as the monks did when compiling their florilegium (p. 120). Then write a *short paragraph* about your experience of *lectio divina* using this passage, including at least one insight into the text and one insight into your own habitual practice of living God’s Word.
6. Would you recommend this book to your family, friends, or other companions in faith? Why or why not? Cite references or give examples to illustrate your point of view.

* If *virtual*, August 29; if *in-person* we will meet on September 5th at the Pastoral Center in Bloomfield.