



# LECTIO CORAM DEO

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**LECTIO** TO READ **CORAM** IN THE PRESENCE OF **DEO** GOD

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*Lectio Coram Deo* can be literally understood as “reading in the presence of God”, or even, “reading before the face of God”.

*Coram Deo* captures the essence of the Christian Life because living *coram Deo* is living one’s entire life in the presence of God, under the authority of God, to the glory of God.

Reading *coram Deo* is to read the Scriptures before the face of God, to listen to Him as though He is sitting with us. Reading *coram Deo* awakens us to who God reveals Himself to be and how we need to respond as individuals and as a community of His people. To do so, we read Scripture three ways: ***Eternally, Internally, and Externally.***

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## 01. **ETERNAL REVELATION**

During this reading, we seek to experience God revealed so we can know more of His eternal truths and character. While reading, we become humble inquirers in His presence, learning more about Him, the main character of the Bible and source of all truth.

Engage Him, not just intellectually but also emotionally and relationally. Pray and converse with God as you read His Word. Go slow and enjoy learning about the Eternal One who reveals Himself. Ask questions of the Word, like:

- Who are You, God? What are You like?
- What does God do? Or not do? Why?
- How does God communicate? And why does He communicate?
- What truth is revealed that I can seek to understand more of?
- How does what is revealed grow my affection for God?
- How did Jesus express this truth about God?



## 02. **INTERNAL RESPONSE**

During this reading, we seek to understand ourselves in light of what was revealed about God. When God reveals His eternal truths to us, we either receive or reject them. While contemplating His truth and grace we enter the journey of becoming a pilgrim after Christ with our purpose, identity and actions defined by Him.

Listen to the Word with a critical mind, but not with a critical heart. Allow God, the One in whose image we are created, to inform us about who we are, and what He wants us to believe and to become. Ask questions of the Word like:

- Do I believe or trust in what God has said? Why or why not?
- Knowing my history, temptations, and personality, what part of my life is (or is not) lining up with who God is or what He says?
- What sin does the passage reveal about my heart and actions?
- Do I see in myself the same characteristics God displays?
- How does this passage reorient my purpose, identity, and beliefs?



## 03. **EXTERNAL REFLECTION**

During this reading, we seek to learn from God how to reflect His truth and grace to the world around us. Scripture calls us to come and experience God, but also to go and serve Him as His missionaries.

Be compelled to reflect His life-giving truth and grace to our world. Take part in His story as His missionaries obeying His call to make more and better disciples. Ask questions of the Word, like:

- How did Jesus, as a man, respond obediently to this truth about God?
- Is God calling me to a different way of living or thinking towards those around me? How can I love others in new ways in light of this?
- Do these truths line up, or conflict, with the culture around me?
- Am I called to do something? Go somewhere? Serve someone?
- How can I proclaim and display God's truth and grace at home, in my work, or in my leisure?