

## Discerning the Spirit's Wisdom to Lead a Meeting (Romans 12:1-2)

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**Guidelines:** Protect confidentiality and follow the leader's prompts

### **Lectio Divina Rhythms/Process (Repeat three times):**

- (a) Read the Scripture passage ("Lectio")
- (b) Reflect on the focus question below ("Meditatio")
- (c) Respond in quiet prayer/journaling ("Oratio")
- (d) Rest in God's invitation for you then pray/share out loud if you want ("Contemplatio")

**Introduction:** How do you lead your ministry, business, or family? The key to a Christian leadership group is to have leaders who are being transformed into the image of Christ through appreciating God's mercy, offering their bodies in worship and service to God, and renewing their minds in Scripture. A group like this might dispense with an "agenda." Focus and prioritization are important for a productive discussion, but having an agenda tends to go along with hurrying and trying to make things happen. The best leadership strategy is to submit our plans to the Lord and learn to be *spirit*-ual leaders who follow the Spirit of Christ, relying upon his wisdom and power. As Jesus' assistant, a group leader can make space in a meeting to help members learn to listen to God as they listen to each other. Instead of driving an agenda, the leader can present "updates and discernment points" for the group to discuss and pray about in the decision-making process.

**Special Instructions:** Read the Scripture passage three times, following the rhythms above. *For the second reading also read through the discussion points for your leadership meeting.*

**Opening Prayer:** Speak Lord... For your servants are listening (1 Sam. 3:9-10)

### **Romans 12:1-2 (NIV84)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, I urge you, brothers [and sisters], in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**1st Reading:** What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? Meditate on that.

**2nd Reading:** Ask God to set your heart on one or two discussion points for your meeting. Offer these items to the God of mercy, praying for a renewed mind and for God's will to be accomplished. How do you feel as you integrate Scripture and the business at hand?

**3rd Reading:** Read Romans 12:1-2. What is God's invitation for us from the Scripture? What do you sense might be God's good and pleasing wisdom concerning the discussion item(s) you prayed about and/or for our group in general?