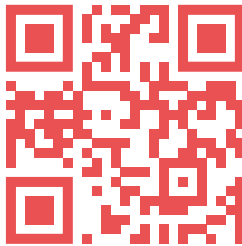




# **RECONCILIATION**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



[yahad.mt](http://yahad.mt)

**RECONCILIATION**  
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**ABOUT THIS SESSION**

This session takes on the theme of reconciliation by reflecting on Scripture. It gives young people the opportunity to discuss where and how as Christians we can be agents of reconciliation.

**GOALS**

- To give young people the opportunity to pray with Scripture.
- To question how we can be agents of reconciliation.

**RESOURCES NEEDED**

- A Bible or a copy of the passage which will be used for each young person.
- Ideally, participants also have something on which they can write their own reflections, such as a paper or a prayer journal.
- A torch (which can be taken apart) (optional)

**SCRIPTURE**

- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

**RECONCILIATION**  
**Summary & Team Overview**

Welcoming & Opening  
Prayer

Icebreaker

Lectio Divina

Discussion (w/ activity)

Closing discussion

Closing & Prayer

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## PREP

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*It's highly advised that the person leading the lectio divina would have prayed through the scripture passage before leading it.*

## SEE

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### Welcome & game<sup>1</sup> (10 min)

*Before starting, explain to the participants the process of the Lectio Divina (reassure them that this is not a complicated prayer, even though it has a Latin name.)*

- The term *Lectio Divina* means reading the Word of God. This exercise is not just about reading the Bible. It also means meditating, praying, and contemplating the passage from Scripture, and letting it have an effect on you.
- Explain the four steps of the process.
- Explain that the point is to find out more about who God is and what he wants to tell us. Sometimes this happens easily. Sometimes you may feel that your prayer was useless. However, time with God is never wasted, even if it doesn't feel productive.

*Take note of the mood of the group. Assess whether you can do something to help the group get into a prayerful atmosphere.*

- *In some groups it may help if there is some instrumental music playing in the background.*
- *For others, it would be more beneficial if the Lectio Divina is done casually, as though it was just a conversation between friends.*

*The important thing is that while Scripture is approached with respect and reverence, the environment in which this is done is comfortable.*

*Throughout the Lectio, the young people can use a journal or paper to write down their reflections and take-aways.*

### Lectio Divina (30 mins)

#### Step 1 – Lectio/Read (5 min)

- Ask the young people to open their Bibles to 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.
- Read the passage slowly.
- Ask the young people to think of a word or phrase that stood out to them. They don't have to know why it stood out.
- Invite everyone to share their word/phrase. There is no right or wrong answer!

#### Step 2 – Meditatio/Think (10 min)

- This time, ask the young people to imagine themselves in the story, either as one of the characters or seeing it from the outside. Ask them to imagine what it looked like, smelt like, felt like. As you read the story, ask them to think about how they feel, and how they react to what is going on in the story.
- Read the passage and leave time for quiet.
- Give some time for reflection (and if they want to, write). Afterwards, invite them to share what they had imagined and what stood out to them this time around. Again, no right or wrong answer!

#### Step 3 – Oratio/Pray (10 min)

- Ask the young people to think about what God might be trying to say to them in this passage.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to appendices for a game idea.

- After you read the passage leave a slightly longer time for quiet.
- Ask the young people to talk to God in their hearts about what this passage means and what God is saying to them through it.

#### Step 4 – Contemplatio/Contemplate (5 min)

- After reading the passage the fourth and final time, ask the young people to ponder what God has been saying, and they'd like to take away from this prayer time. Maybe some teaching, revelation or action point.
- After some time of quiet, invite the participants to share with each other what they will take away from this prayer time.
- Finish with a Glory Be and a sign of the Cross.

## JUDGE

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### Our World (2 mins)

On the 6th of April 2019, Lassana Cisse Souleymane, a 42-year-old migrant worker from the Ivory Coast, was killed in a drive-by shooting in Ħal Far, in what is believed to be Malta's first racially-motivated murder. Two other African migrants were also injured in the attack. From what we know so far, it seems as if Lassana was killed for no other reason than that he "looked different".<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup><https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/lassana-cisse-remembered-two-years-after-his-murder.862944>

### Discussion<sup>3</sup> (15 mins)

- As a society, who are we hurting?
  - Encourage young people to think out the systemic injustices in Malta such as that against migrants.
- Are any of your daily actions perpetuating these injustices?
  - Take time to reflect on whether you're making your mind up about people based on hearsay or flimsy evidence. Challenge yourself to put those thoughts aside and meet people as they really are.

Should you want further content about reconciliation, this video may be helpful: <https://youtu.be/im2hU2yg3Eo>

## ACT

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### Discussion (5 mins)

*Encourage young people to find concrete answers to the following questions.*

- How will you implement/live out your takeaways from the *lectio divina*?
- How can you be agents of reconciliation?

### Closing Prayer (2 mins)

<sup>3</sup> Refer to appendices for a discussion activity idea.

## APPENDICES

### Elsa & the flash light

*Any other game can be used instead of this.*

- Take apart a flashlight and hide the parts throughout the youth center/room.
- Ask one young person to be 'Elsa'. Elsa can freeze any participant in the game by tagging them. If someone is frozen, they can't move.
- The rest of the group has to work together to find the parts of the flashlight, assemble it, and shine it on Elsa to stop her from freezing more people.

### Pyramid Discussion

Aim: To facilitate a discussion which is inclusive to the entire group.

Basic Structure:

- Participants begin in pairs, responding to a discussion question only with a single partner.
- After each person has had a chance to share their ideas, the pair joins another pair, creating a group of four.
- Pairs share their ideas with the pair they just joined.
- Next, groups of four join together to form groups of eight, and so on.
- Repeat until the whole group is joined up in one large discussion.

### Reflection from the Lent Resources #YAHADMT

Faced with numerous centrifugal forces which drive us further from each other, as Christians who have been reconciled to God by grace, we dare to propose a path which brings us together. Besides tending to the wounds of all the victims of injustice, we are called to listen to their voices and learn about how they ended up there and seek concrete and creative ways to put spokes in the wheels of the underlying injustice.

Only by listening attentively to these voices can our hearts and minds be moved. True listening allows us to be true seekers of that truth without which justice and reconciliation will remain forever an illusion. True listening will allow us to meet others as fellow brothers and sisters. If we dare to do so, our lives will become wonderfully complicated, as we experience intensely what it means to be ministers of reconciliation in this beloved country of ours.