Experiencing Scripture Together – Individually, at Home or in Small Groups

One way of experiencing Scripture together is a type of Bible study known by different names – but that I like to think of as the “Shampoo Method”. Just as with washing your hair, you apply, wash, rinse and repeat – This type of Bible Study focuses on four simple steps: Hearing the Word, Absorbing the Word, Sharing the Word and repeating. These steps are spelled out below:

# Hearing the Word

While most of us tend to experience Scripture as literature, something which we read, most of Scripture was first shared orally. There is something about hearing the word read, especially if it is read well, that makes it come alive. The first step is to read the Scripture aloud. For the purposes of this Holy Week experience, you need not read all four accounts of events, but instead focus on one or two. John’s telling of the story is often connects best with our Western culture, while Matthew’s was written to connect with the Hebrews. Luke’s account is as scientific as could be for the period and Mark’s reads like a police officer’s report… “Just the facts!”

Choose one or two accounts and read them aloud (maybe even using a couple of different translations). After hearing the account read, just sit with it for a bit then move to step two.

# Absorbing the Word

To absorb the Word properly, think back to your hearing of the account and consider questions like:

* What moved me? What piqued my interest?
* What words did you want to emphasize (if you were the reader) or want to have emphasized? Why?
* What do you need more information about? What troubles you?
* What in the story connects with your experiences in the world today?
* How does this all make me feel? What does it call me to do, be or become?

# Sharing the Word

After an appropriate amount of time…after the Word has lathered up your life… it is time to share the Word you received from the Lord. When we share what we have discovered, discerned or uncovered, it releases the power of the Word to bubble up even more. As you share the Word with others, be sure to let them share as well, share about what they have heard from you and what they have heard themselves.

Doing this alone?

No problem. You share the word by journaling about what you have experienced. As you journal and share with the pages your discoveries, the Holy Spirit will continue to work and offer new and deeper insights. You can go back to those pages from time to time and see how your discoveries have played out in your life.

# Repeat

Like with the washing of hair, it probably doesn’t feel like you need to repeat the process. However if you will do this again, you will be amazed at how much more “dirt” you discover and how much better it feels.