

## Guide to Using the Reading Guides

Use the following steps when reading the Bible at home:

1. Set aside about a half hour of quiet time to do your reading. Try to do this on a regular basis. The Gospel of Luke has been divided into 5 parts. Plan to do one part each week of Lent. Work through each of the steps below. It may take three or four sessions to work through them all for each part of the Gospel.
2. Begin each session with prayer. We believe that Sacred Scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you are reading.
3. Read the designated passage straight through to get its overall sense.
4. Read the Guide provided for the designated portion of Scripture. It will give you some added background as to St. Luke's overall themes, describe the literary forms he is using, and point out connections with the Old Testament. (There is also a brief explanation of what a Gospel is, and another brief discussion of St. Luke. You may want to read these before beginning the Gospel or you may decide to skip them.)
5. Read the passage again more slowly and try to understand what St. Luke was telling his 1<sup>st</sup> century audience.
6. At the same time, think about the meaning that this gospel has for you today.
7. Ask yourself what you will do, or what you will think differently about, after reading this gospel. Use the questions for reflection to stimulate your thinking.

S. Csontos, 19 February 2013