



Breaking Open the Word Conversation in the Spirit Facilitator Script Lent 2026

Duration: 45-60 minutes

Schedule:

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer	5 mins
2. Prayer Intentions (chat and vocal)	7 mins
3. Preparation Song	3 mins
4. Reading of the Gospel	10 mins.
5. Ground Rules for Small Groups	2 mins.
5. Conversations in small groups	30+ mins
6. Closing Prayer (in small groups)	2 mins

Preparation

If conducting an individual Conversation in the Spirit in person, arrange 6-8 chairs in a circle with a prayer table in the center (this could include a candle, Bible, cloth cover, and symbol of your community). Each conversation should have a facilitator and 4-5 participants.

For online meetings, the Meeting Leader will open the Zoom room 15 minutes prior to the scheduled meeting time. All Facilitators are asked to arrive 15 minutes before the start of the meeting. During this time, the Meeting Leader will pre-arrange the breakout rooms and address any questions and select the Lector for the Gospel Reading

Welcome and Opening Prayer:

The Meeting Leader will open the room to all participants at the start of the meeting. The Meeting Leader will welcome all participants. Participants are encouraged to use the chat function to say hello and where they are from. The Meeting Leader begins the meeting with an Opening Prayer

Prayer Intentions:

The Meeting Leader will invite participants to name any prayer intentions. This can be done verbally or using the chat function. All are invited to offer the response: "God, hear our prayer" after each intention.

Preparation Song:

The Meeting Leader plays a song (which they have selected) to help participants prepare to listen and reflect. It can be a song related to the Gospel, but should be reflective and engaging.

Reading of the Gospel:

The Meeting Leader will share their screen and display the Gospel Reading for the week. A Lector, a pre-selected Facilitator chosen during the pre-meeting gathering, reads the Gospel prayerfully.

Conversation Overview and Ground Rules:

The Meeting Leader provides a brief overview of the breakout rooms and the Conversation in the Spirit process. The Meeting Leader displays the Ground Rules for Conversation in the Spirit asking all to affirm the ground rules. The Meeting Leader then opens the break-out rooms. These rooms have been pre-assigned by the Meeting Leader so that each group has one facilitator and 4-5 participants.

Facilitator or large group leader: *(this or similar words can be used)*

Tonight/Today's conversation is an invitation to listen deeply to one another and to the Spirit to discern how God is calling us to journey more closely together and live the Gospel more fully and authentically as individual disciples and the Body of Christ. Conversation in the Spirit is an invitation to be present to the Holy Spirit among us, in the Scripture and within each of us.

The conversation begins with naming what stood out to you in the Gospel reading and why. Everyone will have an opportunity to speak and respond to one another. Still, even more importantly, all are invited to listen deeply, with the ear of your heart, to one another with compassion and attention, for this is how God relates to each of us. Your facilitator will guide you through each step of the Conversation.

We will now read the Ground Rules for conversation. All are asked to affirm and abide by these ground rules.

(Meeting Leader shares screen to display Ground Rules, reads rules and takes down screen)

Finally, we will not return to this main room after your conversation. When you finish your conversation, your facilitator will offer a brief prayer and end the meeting. I pray that you have a graced-filled encounter with one another and the Spirit who is with us, longing to speak to our hearts.

Small Group Facilitator:

Welcome to our conversation. Thank you for joining. During our time together today, everyone will have an opportunity to share your reflections on the Gospel and to listen deeply to one another.

For the first round, each of us, in turn, is invited to share your thoughts without interruption on what struck you or stood out to you in the reading. Once everyone has spoken, we will share a **minute of silent reflection**. We will then have a second round. This will be an opportunity to name anything that resonated with you as you listened to one another.. We will then share another **minute of silent reflection**. In the final round, all will have an opportunity to name what you feel the Holy Spirit might be saying to us and call us to through this conversation.

Let's begin by introducing ourselves. Please tell us your name and where you are from, and then we will get right to it.

We will now begin with our first round of conversation.

Please take a few moments to collect your thoughts. *(Silence for 20 seconds)*

1st round of sharing:

Now, we will begin our first round of sharing on this question.

(Affirm each speaker when they are finished and thanking them for their offering)

(After all have spoken) Let us take one 1 minute of silence now. Consider all that has been shared. What resonated most with you? What was particularly powerful? What struck you? What inspired you?

(One minute of silence)

2nd round of sharing

We now begin our second round of sharing.

The question for the 2nd round is:

What resonated most for you as you listened? What was most powerful?
What moved you?

(All respond)

Let us pause for a minute to reflect on what you have heard in this round, where the Spirit has been present and prompting us to grow and respond. *(One minute of silence)*

3rd round of sharing:

We will now begin our final round of sharing. I invite you to share the fruit of this time of silence.

How has this conversation affected you? How is the Spirit prompting you to grow, act, and respond?

Closing:

Thank you all for your participation and all you have shared today.

We will now close with a prayer. As we leave, I would invite you to continue to pray for one another through the week. We will convene again next week.

(Offer a prayer of your choosing or use the prayer below)

Lord Jesus,

We give you thanks and praise for gathering us here today/this evening

And for speaking to us through the Gospel and in our lives.

Give us the grace to live in communion with you and with each other,

To participate in the life of your Church,

And to advance your mission in the world.

May all we say and do be guided by your Spirit,

And may our lives and offerings bear much fruit.

We ask all this in your most holy name. Amen.