

**Preparing for World Youth Day
Praying with God's Word**

God Calls the Young

We begin our prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God of power and might,
you call us to speak your word
to a world that needs you.
Give us the strength to be your faithful servants
and to lead others to you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading (Lectio)

One or more group members read the following Scripture two or three times.

Jeremiah 1:4-9

The word of the LORD came to me:
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I dedicated you,
a prophet to the nations I appointed you.
“Ah, Lord GOD!” I said,
“I do not know how to speak. I am too young!”
But the LORD answered me,
Do not say, “I am too young.”
To whomever I send you, you shall go;
whatever I command you, you shall speak.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you—oracle of the LORD.
Then the LORD extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying to me,
See, I place my words in your mouth!

Meditation (Meditatio)

After the reading, take some time to reflect in silence on one or more of the following questions:

- What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
- What in this passage comforted you?
- What in this passage challenged you?

After the reflection time, invite the participants to share their responses.

Contemplation (Contemplatio)

Read the Scripture passage again, followed by this reflection:

How does this passage connect with the experience of your daily life? With your hopes for World Youth Day?

"I do not know how to speak. I am too young!" Do I respond willingly to God's call? What excuses do I make to avoid doing what God asks me to do?

Do not be afraid of them. What fears or other obstacles keep me from responding to God's call? What gives me courage when I am afraid?

See, I place my words in your mouth! What word does God want me to speak? To whom should I speak it?

Prayer (Oratio)

Read the Scripture passage one more time. Invite participants to bring to the Lord the praise, petition, thanksgiving, etc. that the Word inspires in them.

After all have had a chance to make their prayer:

Closing Prayer:

Christ Jesus, . . .
though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.
Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance
he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
that is above every name
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Philippians 2:6-11

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