

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

Being Sent: People on a Mission

We begin our prayer:

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

God our Father,
because you love us, you sent your Son to us.
May we encounter Jesus in the Word,
in the Sacraments,
and in our preparations for World Youth Day.
May your Holy Spirit open our minds and hearts
to know your will.
Amen.

Reading (Lectio)

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

Luke 9:1-6

[Jesus] summoned the Twelve and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal [the sick]. He said to them, "Take nothing for the journey, neither walking stick, nor sack, nor food, nor money, and let no one take a second tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there and leave from there. And as for those who do not welcome you, when you leave that town, shake the dust from your feet in testimony against them." Then they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the good news and curing diseases everywhere.

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?

Jesus sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God. Jesus calls each of us to a particular mission, but each person's mission helps to proclaim the kingdom of God. How can you put your gifts and talents at the service of God's kingdom?

Take nothing for the journey. What help do you need to become a missionary disciple? What baggage holds you back from your mission to proclaim God's kingdom? What about the journey excites or frightens you?

Whatever house you enter, stay there and leave from there. Where do you find rest? What encourages you to leave your safe place and accept God's call to be a missionary disciple?

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:

Having encountered Jesus in the Word, we pray as he taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven....

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