



1. 'I Am With You Always' – Scripture Thought For The Week

The following resource provides a scripture affirmation and reflection with a simple ritual and concluding song. Settle the community before using them. When they are settled, light a candle and display the Word of God. It is intended that the scripture affirmation be read twice with a brief pause between.

The reflection which follows it should be read slowly. If desired, the scripture affirmation and reflection, and/or the song, can be accompanied with PowerPoint images. (See www.liturgyplanningimages.com)

Depending on the atmosphere of the assembly setting and the readiness of the group, the ritual could be used after the reflection. If it is inappropriate to use the ritual after the scripture reflection then simply allow a period of silent reflection and conclude with the song or hymn. However, if it is appropriate to use the ritual, then ensure it is facilitated in a meditative manner, noting the use of pauses which are indicated by dots ... It may be helpful to use quiet instrumental music as background to the ritual.

The Word Of God

“Shout for joy... and give thanks to God.” Psalm 33: 1-2

Reflection

When people feel really joyful they usually jump up and down and sing out their joy. Today's Word of God is an opportunity for you to celebrate your joy and happiness, and to give thanks to God for the joy and delight you feel. It is easy to do this with the big things that bring us happiness, such as the birth of a child, or a special holiday, or winning a game, or a competition. But sometimes, we forget to notice the little things that happen everyday that can give us real joy and happiness.

Ritual

Take time now to remember the small things that you do each day that you enjoy doing, such as hanging out with your friends, eating your favourite food, working on a task or a project, being held by someone you love... When you remember what brings you joy, say a prayer of thanks to God in your heart. At the end of each day, look back and see where the joy has been in your day. You may like to write it down, or express it in a drawing, or perhaps you are content to just enjoy the feeling. And before you sleep, give God a big smile from your heart.

Remember

Joy can be found in the simple things of life.

Concluding Song

I Will Celebrate (James Garrahy- Ride of A Lifetime- Emmanuel Worship)

Please note:

The music suggested in this resource is from Australian hymn books and other international publications. You may prefer to substitute some of the music with suitable music from Irish composers and publications.

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