

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

**Called to Mercy**

*We begin our prayer:*

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

Father of mercy,  
you treat us with tenderness and mercy  
and you ask us to treat others  
with the same merciful care.  
Fill our hearts with your love  
so that we can share that love with all.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Reading (Lectio)**

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

Luke 10:29-37

Because he wished to justify himself, [the scholar of the law] said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

**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?

*And who is my neighbor?* Who in my life needs mercy and tenderness? How attentive am I to the needs of others?

*But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight.* What moves me to compassion? To what needs am I indifferent? How do I respond to someone in need?

*The one who treated him with mercy.* What action can I take in the next day to treat someone in my life with mercy?

### **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:**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.  
For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness;  
behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.  
The Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is from age to age  
to those who fear him.  
He has shown might with his arm,  
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.  
He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones  
but lifted up the lowly.  
The hungry he has filled with good things;  
the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has helped Israel his servant,  
remembering his mercy,  
according to his promise to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

*Luke 1:46-55*

Scripture excerpts taken from the *New American Bible, revised edition* © 2008, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC Used with permission. All Rights Reserved

© 2015 United States Conferences of Catholic Bishops, Washington DC. All Rights Reserved.