

Prayer for Session 3 of *Following Christ*

Beginning Prayer:

Proclaim the scripture passage below. You may do this yourself or invite a member of the group to do so. Allow for a bit of silence (perhaps pray the Lord's Prayer to yourself for a sense of ample silence). Proclaim the reading again. At the conclusion of the second proclamation invite the members of the group to share a word or a phrase that stuck out and spoke to them. Simply ask them to voice that word or phrase out loud without explanation. After all have voiced their word or phrase, pause and pray the following:

Lord, God. Be with us this night. May the words and phrases that spoke to our hearts as we listened to your Word as it was proclaimed remain with us in our sharing this night. We ask this as we ask all things, through Jesus your Son in the Power of the Spirit. Amen.

A reading from the gospel according to John (Jn 6:32-35, 53-54)

Jesus said to them: "I solemnly assure you, it was not Moses who gave you bread from the heavens; it is my Father who gives you the real heavenly bread. God's bread comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

"Sir, give us this bread always," they besought Him.

Jesus explained to them: "I myself and the bread of life. No one who comes to me shall ever be hungry, no one who believes in me shall ever thirst...Let me solemnly assure you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. The one who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood real drink."

The gospel of the Lord

Closing Prayer:

As we conclude our sharing today, let us listen once more to the scripture that was proclaimed as we began. **(Proclaim the passage above once more.)** May we continue to ponder the words of this passage in our hearts as we journey together through the week. Together let us pray the *Evangelization Prayer* found on the inside front cover of our booklets. **(After the prayer is prayed)** Let us go in peace!