



## PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE

A simple method of praying with a scripture passage is suggested here. Allow a few moments of silence between each of the prompts.

- Change the atmosphere of the room by making a gesture such as the Sign of the Cross and/or the lighting of candles. This establishes a change of mode from lesson to prayer, information to formation.
- Invite the students to consciously place themselves in the presence of God.
- Point out that every particular moment of prayer is a direct invitation by God to each human being; otherwise it would simply not occur to us to pray.
- Ask the students to consider how Jesus seems to them in the particular extract you have been looking at: not simply what he has been doing, but how he is feeling, what might be on his mind, in his heart.
- Suggest that they visualise the scene at Capernaum, helped by all they have discovered through their study of this day in the life of Jesus.
- Invite them to put themselves into the day's happenings. Every scripture passage approached in prayer is actually about each of us and directed quite personally to each of us.
- Invite them to hear Jesus speak to them through the particular words of the gospel that have struck them and to notice what their own response to him is.
- Encourage a sense of dialogue with Jesus in prayer, and honesty in response to him.
- Suggest that they frame a final response to this dialogue, a request, a question or a resolution that might guide future action.

Allow a period of silence before concluding with a brief spoken prayer of thanksgiving or praise, like the 'Glory be to the Father ...'

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