

# Devotions and Suggested Biblical texts

The following are just a few texts that may be used for devotions or bible study during the Call Process. The lessons for each Sunday may also be used for your study.

- Matthew 28: 16-20
- The Call of Matthew: Matthew 9:9-13
- Call of the first Disciples: Luke 5: 1-11
- Romans 12: 1-8 (9-21)
- I Corinthians 3:1-9
- Ephesians 6: 10-18
- Philippians 2: 1-11
- I Timothy 2: Instructions concerning Prayer
  - 3:1-7 Qualifications of Bishops
  - 3:8-13 Qualifications of Deacons
  - 4:6-16 a Good Minister of Jesus Christ
- Reflections on God's Call:
  - Call of young people:
    - Samuel : I Samuel 2:1- 3:18
    - Mary: Luke 1: 26-38
  - Call of Elderly:
    - Elizabeth and Zechariah : Luke 1
    - Abraham and Samuel: Genesis 18: 9:15
    - Simeon and Anna: Luke 2: 22-38
  - Call of the Disciples:
    - Follow Me: Matthew 4:18-22; Mk:1-16-20; Luke 5: 1-11
- Reflections on being the Church:
  - Read The Book of Acts together. Read one chapter a week and begin meetings by reflecting on recent readings and the ministry of your congregation.
- Reflections on "Wilderness Wandering"
  - God's People waiting for clarity: Numbers 9:15-23
  - God's people grumbling in the wilderness – and God providing: Exodus 16:1-7

## Bible Study

LEADER: Open with Prayer:

*(Suggestion: Almighty God, we look to your Word for guidance and hope. Open our hearts and our minds that we may hear your word for us. Guide us through your Word to hear the good news for our lives together through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.)*

### A. One person reads the lesson:

- In silence write one word or phrase from the lesson that seems significant:
- Each person shares the word or phrase without additional comment.

### B. A second person reads the lesson:

- In silence reflect on what this passage is saying to you.
- Each person may share their reflection without additional comment.

### C. A third person reads the lesson:

- Each person reflects in one sentence or less what this passage is saying to the Congregation at this time while you are in the Call Process.
- As time allows, a 10-20 minute open discussion may be included at this time.

### Closing Prayer:

**LEADER:** *Gracious God, we are your servants in need of your love.*

The leader then offers a prayer for the person to their right. That person prays for the person on their right, continuing around the room until each person has been included.

Close with The Lord's Prayer

# Prayers for the Call Committee

## For The Work Of The Call Committee

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: Look on your Church with grace and guide the minds of those who shall choose a pastor or deacon for this congregation, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## For the Departing Pastor:

Gracious God, you have united us all in one body. We give you thanks for the work of Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ among us. As *he/she/they* leaves to a new call/ retirement surround *her/him/them* with your Spirit. Give us the courage to release *her/him/them* to a new call and bless our remembering of the work that has been done among us. Guide Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ and us as we continue to seek to share the Good News of salvation through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## During the Interim Time

Loving God, be with us and guide us during this time of discernment. Fill our leaders with your wisdom. Keep us mindful of the work you would have us do. Lead us and guide us O Lord to be about the work of your kin-dom even as the search for a new *pastor/deacon* continues. Bless all who have taken on extra responsibility, and fill them with a sense of your love and presence. We pray in your Son's name, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## During Interviews:

Loving God, be with us and guide us during this time of discernment. Fill our leaders with your wisdom. Keep us mindful of the work you would have us do. Lead us and guide us O Lord to be about the work of your kingdom even as the search for a new *pastor/deacon* continues. Bless all who have taken on extra responsibility, and fill them with a sense of your love and presence. We pray in your Beloved Child's name, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

## During Interviews:

God, keep us mindful of your presence among us as we seek to discern your will for us. We pray that you will help us see beyond our own needs to the needs of your Church. We pray that you will open our eyes to new possibilities, and new opportunities of being your people. Guide us and lead us O Lord. Amen.

## At Meetings

Life-giving God, create among us a desire to do your will. Open our hearts to your Word. Lead us as we seek to lead. Guide us as we seek to guide. God, we seek a new *pastor/deacon* to be among us to lead us and walk with us into future ministry. Direct and sustain us as we wait. Bless all who serve in the congregation, especially those who have the responsibility to lead us during the Call Process. Bless us Lord Jesus. Amen.