



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

"I Am with you always ... " Matthew 28:20

Reflection

God's Word to you today is a promise from Jesus, to be with you forever. That is a very big thing to promise! Sometimes people make promises to us, but for whatever reason, they can't keep their promise. But the promise Jesus makes to you today will never be broken, because the Spirit of Jesus is already deep in your heart and will always be there. Nothing and no-one can ever take Jesus' Spirit from you. One way of knowing that Jesus is with you, is by being quiet and still, and letting yourself feel the warmth and peace of His Spirit in your heart. Jesus' Spirit is also with you in the love and care you receive from others, and in the beauty and glory of creation.

Ritual

Sit very still and quieten your mind... Close your eyes and place your hand upon your heart... Imagine Jesus whispering his promise to you now..., "I am with you always...", and as you do, use your finger to write Jesus' words across your heart... Rest now in the warmth of Jesus' love.

Remember

Jesus is always with you.

Concluding Song

I Am With You Always (Monica Brown – I Am With You Always- Children's Edition)

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.