

Week 4: Theme - Mission & Telling

St Francis Xavier

Welcome:

Welcome to our fourth Lenten session of House Groups.

Introduce and welcome any new members to the group. From the list below, say which word describes you best and why.

Encourager, Listener, Carer, Provider, Sharer, Comforter, Giver, Bringer of Joy, Peacemaker.

Worship:

Gather around a crucifix, an open Bible and a lit candle.

Sign of the Cross

St Paul encourages us to give thanks in all circumstances.

We are going to spend some time giving thanks to God for the world that he created and has given to us to enjoy.

The response after each line is: *Thanks be to God*

For the light and the darkness – *thanks be to God*

For the hail and the snow

For shower and sunshine

For all things that grow

For lightning and tempests

For weal and woe

For His own great goodness

For what is, is so

When the harvest is plenty

When the barn is low

When our pockets are empty
When again they overflow

Add your own offerings of thanks for the world and all
that is in it.

Glory Be...

Word: Jesus and St Francis Xavier speak to us

St Francis Xavier is an example of someone who travelled throughout the world to share the Good News of Jesus with people who had never heard it before. St Francis Xavier was born in Spain in 1506. He met St Ignatius Loyola whilst studying, and became one of the founding members of the Society of Jesus. He visited many countries including Mozambique, Goa, mainland India and Japan. He was hoping to preach in China but died in 1552, before he reached the mainland. He was canonized in 1622 and is Patron of Missions.



Read the passage aloud, then give time for quiet reflection

The Bible

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you.”

Now read the following quotations, then pause for further reflection.

‘Many, many people hereabouts are not becoming Christians for one reason only: there is nobody to make

them Christians.’ St Francis Xavier

Questions for discussion: -

Is there a word or phrase that particularly catches your attention?

What do the readings tell us about Jesus, ourselves, others?

What does it say to you personally in this time of Lent?

Witness:

In the light of the gospel and the words of St Francis Xavier, let's have a short time to pray for people in the world who do not have the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus. We also remember the missionaries who serve them. We also call to mind people we know who do not believe in God.

Holy Spirit, we invite you to be here with us. Inspire us to think of the people you wish us to pray for. Come Holy Spirit.



Each person is invited to take a small piece of paper and write the names of people who do not have faith, and missionaries who serve both here and in other parts of the world. The names will not be read out.

Play some quiet music as the names are written and collected in a basket. As you place the basket before the cross, say together:

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Decide what you would like to do with the names in the basket. Perhaps you could ask your priest to offer Mass for all the people you have prayed for. If your group wishes to continue meeting, perhaps the host could keep the names until you next meet.

Closing prayer:

God, you are our creator.

You are good and your mercy knows no bounds.

To you arises the praise of every creature.

God, you have given us an inner law by which we must live.

To do your will is our task.

To follow your ways is to know peace of heart.

To you we offer our homage.

Guide us on all the paths we travel upon this earth.

Free us from all the evil tendencies that lead our hearts away from your will.

Never allow us to stray from you.

O God, judge of all humankind, help us to be included among your chosen ones on the last day.

God, author of peace and justice, give us true joy and authentic love, and a lasting solidarity among peoples.

Give us your everlasting gifts. Amen.

*WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A BLESSED HOLY WEEK
AND A VERY HAPPY EASTER!*