



On a Mission from Jesus: Proclaim God's Word Always

A Meal Ritual

Table Center

Globe or map of the world, colorful table cloth, basket with a variety of breads in it, foot shaped name tags with everyone's name on it

Preparation

Prepare a simple meal with a variety of breads from different cultural traditions, such as pita, calabrese, french, tortilla, rye, etc. Serve several dips or spreads to use with the breads, such as humus, seasoned oil, butter, peanut butter. If you are having an extended gathering (guests from outside your home) invite them to bring breads and dips or spreads that are from their ethnic or cultural background.

✝ We Gather...

Give everyone their name tags as they gather at the table. Say to each, "Welcome missionary (their name)" and pin their name tag on them.

Then pray...

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for knowing us and calling us.
Send your Spirit into the hearts of those who do not know you
And lead them into faith and love.
Help us to be your missionaries to all we meet. Amen.

✝ We Tell the Story...

Invite someone to proclaim the Gospel reading...

Jesus came to them and said: I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth! Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Discuss...

- Do you consider yourself to be a missionary? Why or why not?
- Does the title of missionary feel comfortable or uncomfortable to you? Why or why not?

✝ We Share a Meal...

Invite different people to hold up plates or baskets of the various breads as you pray...

Bless the diversity of foods and breads that we are about to share. May they nourish us. Remind us of the many people and cultures that know you and celebrate you, and challenge us to share your light with those who have not met you yet. Amen.

Invite everyone to taste and enjoy some breads and dips that they may not have experienced before.

As the meal is being shared, invite those gathered at the table to discuss...

- Who have been missionaries, bearers and nourishers of God's Word, to you? Who have you been a missionary to?

✝ We Go Forth...

Conclude by discussing...

- How can you be a missionary and share the Good News of Jesus Christ in your daily life and actions?
- How can you support missionaries working in other countries or situations?

Invite those gathered to trace a small cross on each body part as you pray the final blessing...

Missionary Jesus, bless our feet that we may take your word where it needs to go,

Bless our hands that we may reach out with your word to those who need it,

Bless our mouths that we may speak your word,

Bless our ears that we may hear your word spoken by others,

Bless our hearts that we may love your word,

Bless our eyes that we may see your presence in all whom we meet.

Amen.

