

STAND UP! I APPOINT YOU AS WITNESSES OF WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN.



WITNESS

# World Youth Day

5 REFLECTIONS AS WE APPROACH  
YOUTH FUNDAY (19.11.21)  
& WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY (21.11.21)

# 1. SHARE WHAT YOU'VE SEEN



A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (Acts 26:12-18)

Paul said, "On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. About noon, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?'

'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. **'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me.** I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

The Word of the Lord.  
**THANKS BE TO GOD.**



If you could change one thing in the world around you, what would it be?



Dear Jesus,  
Give me eyes to see your light in the world, and a heart to share this light with others. Amen.



Think of something kind someone has done for you this week. Can you do this for someone else today?

# 2. ARISE!



A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah. (Jeremiah 1:4-8)

The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

"Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young."

But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.  
**THANKS BE TO GOD.**



What are the best things about being young?  
What are the hardest things?



Creator God,  
You know me better than I know myself, and you love every part of me. Help me to see myself the way that you see me. Amen



Research the story of a young hero or saint. Tell a friend about them and listen to theirs.

# 3. STAND UP



A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans. (Romans 5:1-8)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for us. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The Word of the Lord.  
**THANKS BE TO GOD.**



Think of someone or something that encourages you to keep going even when it seems difficult.

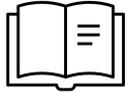


Dear Jesus,  
You are the rock. The firm foundations on which we stand. Help us to stand strong, knowing that your love for us is ABUNDANT. Amen.



Say thank you to someone who encourages you, and think of a way to encourage someone else.

# 4. APPOINTED



A reading from the First Letter of St Peter. (1 Peter 1:4-5, 9-10)

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.  
**THANKS BE TO GOD.**



What has happened in your life that has made you the person you are today?



Loving God,  
You call us to be co-workers in building your Kingdom on earth. Help us to work together and recognise the gifts and talents we all bring. Amen.



Remind a friend of a gift or talent they have or a reason you are thankful for them in your life.

# 5. WITNESS



A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew. (Matt 28:16-20).

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD, JESUS CHRIST.**



What does it mean to be a "disciple" of Jesus?



Dear Jesus,  
Help me to be a light in the world. Help me to share love, kindness, joy and hope with everyone I meet.  
Amen.



Think of a fun or creative way to share joy or love or kindness today.

**See you there!**  
**Register your school:**  
**[worldyouthsunday.com/funday](https://worldyouthsunday.com/funday)**

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ENGLAND&WALES  
FRI. 19TH NOV. 2021