

Second Week Prayer Units  
Prayer Unit 15

- Theme: The Kingdom Exercise presents Ignatius' image of Jesus revealing God's dream for the world. The themes of this exercise give the context for the Gospel Contemplations on Jesus' public life. Hopefully, by attending to Ignatius' personal image/myth transformed in Jesus, you will be more disposed to hear God's call during this Exercises journey.
- Grace: To ask for what I desire -- to discover Jesus in my own personal story so that I, in love with him, may be more open to hear his call in the unique and concrete circumstances of my life.

Prayer Texts:

- a) Mt 3:13 Jesus leaves home. Spend the last few days at home with him just before he leaves for his journey to the river Jordan. Listen to him share the dream of his heart and listen to Mary recall some of her stories that have been important for them.
- b) Mt 3:13 Be with Jesus as he takes his leave from his mother and relatives and accompany him to the Jordan. Share your hopes, dreams, and desire to follow his Spirit in your own life.
- c) Mt 3:13-17 Go with Jesus to the Jordan River and be with him during his baptism. See how the Spirit is giving him a deeper sense of his own story.
- d) Kingdom Consider Ignatius' dream and its possible fulfilment in Jesus [91]-[98].
- e) Kingdom Through his personal image or parable, Ignatius was connected with God's dream for the world. Spend some time in fashioning your personal image which can engage you with God's dream for the world:  
— If you could take your deepest desire and vision for the world, and express it in a personal myth or story, what would it be?  
— What kind of person would embody this vision? — What would be an appropriate and expected response to this person?  
— Since Jesus is the embodiment of all one's deepest desires, what prayer or offering do you desire to make now?
- f) Repetition

Additional Readings for reflection outside prayer times:

Wis 9	As Jesus leaves home, Solomon's prayer for wisdom may very well have been Jesus' prayer expressing his own deeply felt dreams and desires.
Lk 14:25-30	Jesus invites us to make a radical commitment to his Abba in the same way that he did in his own life.
Jer 1:4-10	The experience at the Jordan may have been similar to the call of Jeremiah.
Acts 10:34-38	This is Peter's description of Jesus' experience in the Jordan River
Ps 89	which was an overwhelming consolation, like the anointing described in this psalm. Through this consolation, Jesus was anointed, and perhaps, he came to understand himself and his story as the suffering servant.
Is 42:1-9; Is 49:1-7	These servant texts give an idea of the meaning of the consolation Jesus received in the Jordan.
Lk 9:23-26; Lk 9:57-62	Jesus calls us radically to a form of poverty and self-renunciation,
Eph 4:17-24	to lay aside our former way of life, to acquire a spiritual way of thinking -- to make choices according to deeper desires,
2Cor 5:15-21	and to join him in the work of reconciliation.
2Cor 12:7-10	Despite our weaknesses, God acts through us with the Spirit's presence and strength.

Additional Readings for reflection outside prayer times:

Mt 13:54-56	Jesus was known and recognized to be the carpenter's son, and so his own people would be really surprised in later years when he spoke with authority.
Phil 2:1-5	Jesus had to learn how to get along with others and not be motivated by rivalry or conceit. Paul asks us to do the same.
Col 3:12-21	The context of Paul's teaching for us is also the context in which Jesus grew up.
Heb 2:14-18	Jesus had to become like us in every way.
Ps 42	This psalm may very well have expressed Jesus's feelings as he kept pondering his temple experience at the age of twelve: "My soul longs for you, O my God ... I remember when I went with the throng to your house ...
Ps 63:1-8	thus have I gazed toward you in the holy place to see your glory."