

# **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Daily time of prayer & reflection**

## **Day 1 Called by God**

*“You did not choose me but I chose you”*

(John 15:16a)

**Genesis 12:1-4** The call of Abraham

**John 1:35-51** The call of the first disciples

## **Meditation**

The start of the journey is an encounter between a human being and God, between the created and the Creator, between time and eternity.

Abraham heard the call: “Go to the land I will show you”. Like Abraham we are called to leave that which is familiar and go to the place that God has prepared in the depths of our hearts. Along the way, we become more and more ourselves, the people God has wanted us to be from the beginning. And by following the call that is addressed to us, we become a blessing for our loved ones, our neighbours, and the world.

The love of God seeks us. God became human in Jesus, in whom we encounter the gaze of God. In our lives, as in the Gospel of John, God’s call is heard in different ways. Touched by his love, we set out. In this encounter, we walk a path of transformation - the bright beginning of a relationship of love that is always started anew.

“One day you understood that, without your being aware of it, a yes had already been inscribed in your innermost depths. And so you chose to go forward in the footsteps of Christ....

In silence in the presence of Christ, you heard him say, ‘Come, follow me; I will give you a place to rest your heart.’”

[The Sources of Taizé (2000) p. 52]

## **Prayer**

Jesus Christ,

you seek us, you wish to offer us your friendship  
and lead us to a life that is ever more complete.

Grant us the confidence to answer your call

so that we may be transformed

and become witnesses of your tenderness for the world.

## **Questions**

Have you ever been aware that God was asking you or someone you know to begin a new journey in

life – whether literally moving to somewhere else, or ‘changing direction’ in some other way?

How did you respond?

What changes could your church or group of churches make to empower God's people to walk more faithfully the path God has set for you, or to discern God's guidance more clearly?

What are some of the stories of the 'new' members of your community, whether they have crossed a county boundary or journeyed across continents to get there?

## **Go and Do**

(see [www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo))

**Global:** Get informed about and take action on global refugee and asylum issues and campaigns.

**Local:** Participate in any hospitality being offered locally to those who have had no choice but to go on a long journey to find safety in an unfamiliar place across the world.

**Personal:** Spend time exploring what is unfamiliar to you in another Christian tradition and which might help lead you to greater understanding and unity.