



# SW MN Synod Junior High Youth Gathering Church Group Devotions 2020

**WITH YOU:** “When you walk through the waters,  
I will be **WITH YOU.**” – Isaiah 43:2

**INTRO** – Share HIGHS & LOWS and/or “Yay, God!” Moments

- Share highs & lows about the last few days. (Say/write as a prayer if on your own).
- Share a “Yay, God!” Moment from their week or from one of the videos/activities from Gathering 2.0 resources.

**ACTIVITY: Option #1: ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS CONTEST** --- have students pair up in physically distanced partners, and one by one compete against each other (without actually touching each other when rock beats scissors, paper beats rock, etc.) One by one, have champions compete against each other until you get a final champion.

**ACTIVITY Option #2: THIS or THAT** --- Movement Activity (just encourage them to maintain masking/physical distancing)

- Have students move to one side of the room (or space) or the other depending on which of the two options best represents them: (option can be to have them sit or stand, as well. ZOOM option: raise or lower hands)
- Ask them, “Are you this or are you that? Cat person or dog person?”
  - Cat person or Dog person
  - Town or Country
  - Winter or Summer
  - Pepsi or Coke
  - Band or Choir
  - Basketball or Wrestling
  - Volleyball or Softball/Baseball
  - Ironman or Captain America
  - Wonder Woman or Supergirl
  - Early Riser or Night Owl
  - Go to a movie or watch a movie at home
  - Bible: Old Testament or New Testament
  - For Communion: wine or grape juice / bread or wafers
  - Bible: Moses or David ---- Goliath or Judas, Ruth or Mary
  - Biblical disciples: Peter or John
  - Jesus calms the storm or Jesus healing the blind man
  - Jesus: Water to wine or Walking on water
  - Cross or Empty Tomb

**Digging Deeper** Read Isaiah 43:2 in your group & discuss: (option to do Isaiah 43:1-5a):

*With You: “When you walk through the waters, I will be with you.”*



**Coffee Cup Questions (Getting Started Connection)**

- What is one of your favorite places to go in nature? Why?
- What is one of your favorite things about water? Share a significant memory around a lake, river, pool, etc.

**Bible Story – digging deeper:** \* What is your first reaction when you hear the Theme, “With You”?

- Who is someone that has helped you or been there for you/with you when you really needed it? Share.
- The theme verse talks about God being with you as you are going through the waters... sometimes that sounds nice, like walking through a brook or stream... what are some day to day regular moments that you have been aware of God being there for you?
- Other times we go through waters that feel like they could pull us under or sweep us under – what are situations in people’s lives, or your life, that feel overwhelming?
- What are things in people’s lives or in your life that have helped you to cling to your faith when things are difficult?
- When you have experienced a “flood” in your circumstances that feels like it’s too much, what helps you? What makes things harder? How does it feel to hear God say that NO MATTER WHAT – God will be there with you, helping you?
- How does this verse offer comfort or help when life feels overwhelming or when it feels like flood waters might take over?



**HEART: Life application** \*How might God’s promise to be “with you” give you or someone else strength?

- How might God call you to be with someone else in their struggles or needs?
- Who do you know that relies on God when the floods in life take over? What does their faith or life look like?
- In what ways do you need God’s strength/support in a certain situation or circumstance in your life?
- How can we pray for you (or someone you care about) --- and build you up in that situation?

**Closing Prayer:** Lord, thank you for loving us and promising to always be with us. Help us whether the waters of our circumstances are peaceful or raging. May we find strength and help in you, and may we dare to offer your love and presence to others. We love you, God. Amen!