

Baking With the Saints Discussion Points

St. James

- Prayer
- Explain speaker's personal connection to St. James, if they have one, or tell anecdote relating to Spain, to going on a hike or a difficult journey, etc.
- St. James is the patron of the country of Spain, as well as those who suffer with arthritis, and veterinarians.
- One of the coolest things about Spain, and particularly something that Catholics and Christians can do in Spain, is walk El Camino de Santiago. In English, that translates to "The Way of St. James" and is just that-a way. It's a journey that people walk from different parts of Europe, whether their route starts in Spain or Portugal or France, and they walk and pray to Santiago, Spain, which is where the Cathedral de Santiago Compostela exists.
- This is a place where pilgrims journey to, to pray and celebrate the end of their Camino. St. James brought the Gospel to Spain, which is why he is their patron.
- Explanation of the Camino. The Camino is a really long, hard walk. It's over mountains and along cliffsides and through forests and you walk for up to 22 miles a day, for 2 weeks straight. For those who walk it, they often have to make a lot of preparations, including procuring...
 - a hiking backpack
 - trail runner shoes
 - A water bottle
 - Sufficient clothing
 - a rosary
 - A towel
 - a European phone charger adapter
 - So much!

They also had to prepare their bodies...

- They might start by walking around the neighborhood with empty backpacks for 2 miles
- Then a backpack with soup cans in it for 4 miles
- Then on weekends they could fill their whole pack and go for 8 mile hikes, and practice walking on uneven ground and uphill.

They needed to prepare.

- Do you ever start a crazy journey without preparing for it?
 - If I told you were going to hop on a flight tomorrow morning and be gone for a week, would you hop on the plane without any belongings?
 - If I told you we were running a marathon in 6 months, would you spend 5 months and 29 days laying on the couch eating flaming hot Cheetos?
 - Of course not!! We tend to like to prepare for big journeys, and it's usually the prudent thing to do.
- Sometimes, though, we're not prepared. Let's take a look at the call of St. James in [Matthew 4:21-22](#)
 - *As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea-they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.*
- They did not have time to prepare! They literally hop out of the boat and go! The same is sometimes true for us in our lives. Ready or not, Jesus is calling! To...
 - a new soccer team where you know nobody
 - To a new school
 - To being a friend to someone who needs a friend
 - To loving people who are hard to love
 - To walking through times of struggle and suffering.
- Personal story about struggling or suffering in some way.
- Speaker explains how they didn't know that was going to be part of their story from the beginning. But God did. He has always had a plan for me, and He will always be with me, and St. James will always be a good intercessor for those reasons.
- Encouragement to think about the places where you are called, and you have no time to prepare.
 - Moms, maybe it's a new job or ministry or family situation that you have to dive in and take care of.
 - Daughters, maybe it's a new school or group of friends or personal struggle.
 - Whatever it is, take it to Jesus, and take it to St. James and ask him to help you dive in!