

# The earth is growing closer together



## PRAY

You, o God, are Lord of all nations and races on earth. You, God, are also Lord of our time and our life. We see, Lord, how mankind is growing together at a rapid pace. We are happy to have friends all over the world, but at the same time it frightens us that social differences are growing. See our fear and convert our inability to change something. Help us, Lord, to create ideas for how we could develop together. We trust in you. Amen.



## CONTEMPLATE

One person reads the Bible passage aloud.  
Short silence.

**Exchange:** *What particularly appealed to you?*



## STUDY

1. Read DOCAT text sentence-for-sentence. Then one person reads the text aloud in full.
2. Three minutes of silence.
3. Each person reads a word or phrase aloud (without comment) that he or she has noticed.
4. Explain briefly in the next round why you have chosen the sentence (e.g. memories, questions, etc.).



## DISCUSS

**Also discuss your own questions on this topic!**

**Treasure Book:** *Take five minutes to write down what you don't want to forget.*



## CHALLENGE

Our **CHALLENGES** are just suggestions you can make in addition to your study guide meetings. You can also replace them with stronger, more fitting, more original or better ones. Just let us know at [feedback@youcat.org](mailto:feedback@youcat.org).

**#DOCATChallenge:** *Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.*



## Gen 12:3

I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you.

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## What social problems does globalization bring with it?

Accelerated globalization does not mean, however, that all countries are equally developed and all people can benefit from its networking. Quite the contrary: Problems like poverty, hunger, lack of education, poor health care, and human rights violations are still breaking news. Poorer countries are often extremely dependent on how much the more developed countries produce in them or buy from them. At the same time, the wages paid to workers in poor countries are often extremely low. For example, a seamstress in Bangladesh receives only two or three cents for a T-shirt that in the U.S. costs about five dollars. This gives rise to injustices that are often responsible for the fact "that many are deprived of fundamental human rights" (cf. Synod of Bishops, 1971, "Justice in the World", 9). Globalization, therefore, not only has advantages but also aggravates many problems or even causes them in the first place.

1. How would you describe the advantages and disadvantages of globalization? Write down a few points in two separate columns.
2. Do you ask when buying clothes, for instance, if they were produced under fair conditions?
3. Everybody wants to drive a car, to travel by plane or to join cruise holidays like people in Western Europe and America. But this is not possible unless the globe collapses. How can we solve this problem fairly?
4. Who is protecting the rainforest? Who is able to protect it?

Meet a person of another nation. Ask him/her kindly to share something about his/her homeland.

Do you take on this challenge?

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