

Companion Worksheet

Creating a Culture of Encounter: A Guide for Joyful Missionary Disciples

SESSION 5

“The main goal of Creating a Culture of Encounter is to discern ways in which the local Church can better respond to those who live on the peripheries of society and foster ways in which the faithful can respond, as missionary disciples, to the call of the New Evangelization, serving the whole Church.” (CCE, p. 1)

How to Use This Companion Worksheet

Use this worksheet as a handout to support your parish or community’s five-session Encounter process or as a stand-alone reflection, which invites one to encounter and be a missionary disciple to those on the peripheries.

This short worksheet is adapted from the USCCB’s Creating a Culture of Encounter: A Guide for Joyful Missionary Disciples resource guide. This handout shares key elements of the CCE Encounter sessions to help missionary disciples in the parish community reflect and reach out to those on the periphery.

Session 5: Celebrating the Joy of Being Missionary Disciples

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this fifth and final session of the process of the Encounter process. . . . Our focus today is to celebrate with gratitude and joy the achievements and worthy moments of our lives, big and small. In this session we are sent once again to reach out to those who are most in need. (p. 41)

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:32-35

“Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?” So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, “The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!” Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

SEE

As missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, we recognize that we have received many blessings and now are called to share these with others through our witness. Let us share with enthusiasm the importance of celebrating the wonders that God has done in our lives.

- For what are you grateful to God at this moment in your life? (p. 44)

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JUDGE

A Christian disciple is grateful for all the good that comes from God, and he or she celebrates.

- Do I recognize that Jesus is the reason for which I celebrate?
 - Do I remember the poor and those most in need when I celebrate?
 - Do I seek reconciliation with someone with whom I had a difficulty, before I celebrate? (p. 45)
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ACT

In this last session of the Encounter process, we reflect on our experience as missionary disciples reaching out to our brothers and sisters. We ask the Holy Spirit to inscribe the Word of God in our minds, our hearts, and our whole being. (p. 45)

- [Think of your missionary experiences during this process. Describe how the Lord may have touched you or those you reached out to. Did it effect a conversion of heart or mind in either case?]
 - [How can you celebrate the goodness of God in simple ways?]
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CELEBRATE

[If participating in your parish or community Encounter process, this celebration part will be done as a group. If using this as an individual reflection piece, spend a few moments in prayer to offer up your own praise, thanksgiving, and petitions to God.]

MISSIONARY ACTION

Go out . . . to continue bringing the Good News of Christ to the people . . . on the peripheries[!] (p. 49)

To order a copy of *Creating a Culture of Encounter* (Spanish/English) and begin the Encounter process in your parish or community, go to the USCCB store website at: <http://store.usccb.org/creating-a-culture-of-encounter-p/7-629.htm>.

