

Companion Worksheet

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

SESSION 1

“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 1: Called to a Loving Encounter with Jesus in the Church

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first session of the Encounter process. In these five [sessions] we will make our own journey with Jesus, following the various moments of the passage of Emmaus. We will also prepare to reach out to those who most need to hear the Good News of Jesus and feel the loving embrace of the Church. In this first session, we will focus on how Jesus reaches out to the disciples, taking the first step in coming forth to meet them. (p. 10)

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:13-15

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem, called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

SEE

Let us consider a moment in our personal history:

Share an experience in which you felt Jesus took the initiative to reach out to you.

- What were the blindfolds that prevented you from recognizing Jesus (e.g., tiredness, worries, the need to survive, the lack of reflection, isolation . . .)?
- Who was walking by me?
- Who or what restored my hope? (p. 11-12)

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JUDGE

God seeks us out first through the Sacrament of Baptism and calls us to be missionary disciples of God's divine love. Jesus invites all the baptized to seek others out first and gives us the Holy Spirit to guide our joyful steps. (p. 12)

- [How do you reach out to others under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit?]

ACT

How could we prepare ourselves for mission, what steps should we take, what gestures should we make to be the hands, the feet, and the eyes of God in the world? (p. 13)

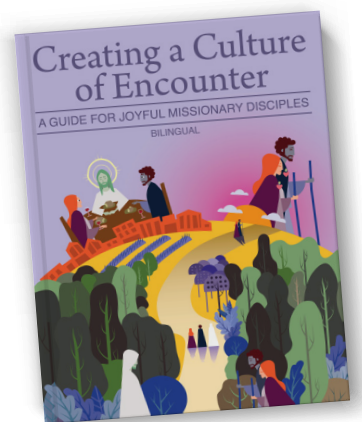
CELEBRATE

[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

Take the initiative to reach out to someone.

Ask simple questions showing interest in the person. Do not start by giving instructions, advice, or talking about doctrine, but by listening intently. The first objective is to join them along their journey and become attuned to their lives. (p. 16)



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>.



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The text of this session is adapted from *Creating a Culture of Encounter: A Guide for Joyful Missionary Disciples* (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2018). Text in [brackets] has been added. Other text is an excerpt from the CCE guide. Scripture excerpts used in this work are taken from the *New American Bible, Revised Edition*, copyright © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Copyright © 2019, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

Ministry Resource