

Companion Worksheet

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

SESSION 3

“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 3: Walking Together with Jesus

INTRODUCTION

This third session of the Encounter process goes deeper into the meaning of Christian accompaniment. It emphasizes the importance of walking with Jesus to feel his friendship, listen to his word, and understand our lives in light of his promises of full and eternal life. Walking with Jesus leads us to say to him at the end of the journey: “Stay with us.” (p. 24)

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:25-29

And he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

SEE

Let us consider some moments in our lives when we have felt accompanied by someone—[as well as times we have felt rejected by someone].

- [How was your faith encouraged or challenged by this experience?]
- How did God become present at that moment? (p. 26)

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JUDGE

God accompanies us. God walks with us every day, in joyful moments and in difficult ones. . . .

When we experience suffering, violence, difficulties, rejection, abandonment, misunderstanding, and even the harsh reality of death, it is tempting to think that God is not with us. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, however, clearly revealed to us that it is especially during those difficult moments that God is with us. (p. 26-27)

- [Ask the Lord to show you how he has accompanied you, in times of joy and times of struggle.]
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ACT

As Pope Francis reminds us, when we accompany others in their struggles, at an appropriate moment, the Spirit will prompt us to share with them this Gospel announcement. (p. 29)

- [How have you recognized the Lord working through you to plant seeds of the Gospel in the lives of others?]
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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

Invite one person . . . to join you in missionary action this week. (p. 30)

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>.

