

# Recommendations for the Five Sessions for Teams and/or Parish Communities

Forming Missionary Disciples!



## V ENCUENTRO

DISCÍPULOS MISIONEROS: TESTIGOS DEL AMOR DE DIOS  
MISSIONARY DISCIPLES: WITNESSES OF GOD'S LOVE

# Logistics of Small Groups for V Encuentro

- **5 Sessions** – weekly, biweekly, other
- Easter Season **Complete first half of 2017**
- Form groups now. What groups already exist? How will you invite? Sign ups? Locations?
- **All Catholics** of all backgrounds are encouraged and welcomed to be part of the V Encuentro process...parishes, movements, SCCs schools campus ministry, organizations...



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# Responsibilities of Small Group Facilitators



1. **Prepare the space** for the group to meet.
2. **Guide the conversation**, ensuring that everyone is welcomed and has a chance to participate.
3. **Procure and distribute the symbols** and any **other materials** to be used for each of the sessions.
4. **Keep records** of who participated in the sessions, respecting privacy and confidentiality.
5. **Submit a report** to the Parish Encuentro Team (or coordinating team) at the end of the five session experience.

# Facilitating a Small Group Conversation (Dialogue)

## 1. Create an inclusive environment

- Invite participants to introduce themselves.
- Share expectations for effective dialogue. .
- Allow for the sharing of alternate views.
- Treat participants with respect and consideration
- 
- Be aware of barriers to sharing (cultural, social, experiential, etc.)
- Invite and encourage all participants to share at least once before inviting participants to share again.

*You're Invited!*

# Facilitating a Small Group Conversation (Dialogue)

## 2. Keep discussions constructive and positive

- Stay centered on the topic.
- Follow the process indicated for each session.
- Request respect if participants challenge other ideas.
- Encourage others to add their reactions or ideas to build on previous comments.
- Revisit past contributions and incorporate them into subsequent discussions.

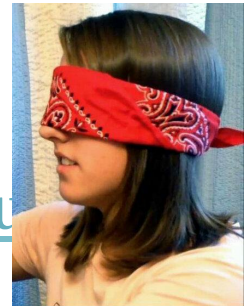


# Session 1: Called to a Loving Encounter with Jesus in the Church

- Symbols and Supplies:



- Image of a Path in center
- **Blindfolds** (one for each participant)
- Basket with **Wristbands** (one per person)
- Music and player/speakers (Resources/Music)  
[www.vencuentro.org/v-encuentro-documents/mu](http://www.vencuentro.org/v-encuentro-documents/mu)



# FIRST SESSION Prayer

## START with



Song

Reading: pg. 11, On the Way to Emmaus

Pg. 16, create a ritual with the blindfolds for the prayer and continue with the Reading.

With Sending Song give two wristbands two each person, one for the person they will encounter.

Use the SEE, JUDGE, ACT AND CELEBRATE method. See the plan

# Plan for the First Session

THEME	PROCESS	METHOD	MISSION	CONSULTATION
<p>I. Called to a loving encounter with Jesus in the Church</p>	<p>To venture to go out evangelizing without words</p>	<p>To See: Identifying the bonds ...            The initiative of Jesus to approach is personal and communal            To Think: How Jesus makes himself present: past - present            To act: to evangelize without words            Celebrate: the way Page 16            Going out:            Identify fields. Start with observation and start the consultation</p>	<p>Observe our social environments. Enter any of the fields or environments. Pray to discern where and with whom. Choose someone.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As a Catholic what brings you happiness?</li> <li>2. What are your fears and worries? Inside or outside the Church</li> <li>3. What actions show you that you parish is evangelizing without words?</li> <li>4. Which Catholic traditions and celebrations do you value the most?</li> </ol>



## To evangelize without words

Observe the most viral gestures of Pope Francis

How he looks to, and listens to others

How he encounters the one who is different from himself

Numerous people around the world have been impacted by his “non verbal language”

TAKE THE FIRST STEP! Go forth, Be the first one to announce the Gospel without words. May your relatives, and those around you deduce: This is how Jesus served, how he gazed and smiled, how he was. Find someone who has Gone away from our faith, who Either felt rejected or became indifferent... evangelize him or her with your attitude



Practice with the questions from the Diocesan Mission & Consultation Manual **15 minutes**

1. As a Catholic what brings you happiness?

Your short response & what to respond to the other person

2. What are your fears and worries? Inside or outside the Church

Your short response & what to respond to the other person

## PRACTICE

3. What actions show you that your parish is evangelizing without words?

Your short response & what to respond to the other person

4. Which Catholic traditions and celebrations do you value the most?

Your short response & what to respond to the other person

# Session 2: With Words and Actions: Do It!

- Symbols and Supplies
  - Image of a Path (Way to Emmaus)
  - **Fount and bottles of Holy Water** for each participant
  - Basket with Mission and Consultation Journals)
  - Music and player/speakers
  - Green plant with abundant leaves



## SECOND SESSION Start with the Prayer

Song: Pescador de hombres

Reading : Guide: pg. 19 Lc. 24, 17 -20  
and reflection.

Continue with the Plan for the 2nd.Session

Continue with the practice with the  
questions from the Diocesan Journal  
At the end(Celebrate, Guide pg. 24)  
pray and blessed each other with the water .  
With the ending song each person receives a  
bottle of Blessed Water.



## Plan for the Second Session

<p><b>II. With words and actions: Do it!</b></p>	<p><b>To face the difficulties and trials as Catholics in the USA, and to encourage the need for an outgoing church.</b></p>	<p><b>To See: Identify the current challenges (personal and of the community)</b> <b>Jesus gets involved, me too, but you have to know how to listen</b> <b>To think: A Friend reaches out in the difficult moments. <b>Our people have experienced this and our faith has been the source of strength.</b></b> <b>To Act: Getting involved without fear, with determination, trusting God ...</b> <b>To Celebrate: Lord, give us your water</b> <b>Going out: daring to overcome barriers and challenges</b></p>	<p><b>Approach the person with genuine interest. Start a respectful dialogue. Express interest in understanding their environment. Inviting the person to identify a periphery and reflect on the struggles that exist there.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Describe 3 unmet expectations of Hispanic people in the US</b></li><li><b>2. What does the parish do that expresses genuine interest in the struggles people face? How do Catholics find strength to overcome their struggles?</b></li><li><b>3 Identify outreach ministries that offer accompaniment. If none, what ministries of accompaniment would you like to see?</b></li><li><b>4. Identify 3 hopes of Hispanics from different generation or ages</b></li></ol>
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Practice with the questions from the Diocesan Mission & Consultation Manual **15 minutes**

1. Describe 3 unmet expectations of Hispanic people in the USA

**Your short response & what to respond to the other person**

- 2. What does the parish do that expresses genuine interest in the struggles people face? How do Catholics find strength to overcome their struggles?

**Your short response & what to respond to the other person**

Practice with the questions from the Diocesan Mission & Consultation Manual **15 minutes**

3. Identify outreach ministries that offer accompaniment. If none, what ministries of accompaniment would you like to see?

**Your short response & what to respond to the other person**

4. Identify 3 hopes of Hispanics from different generation or ages

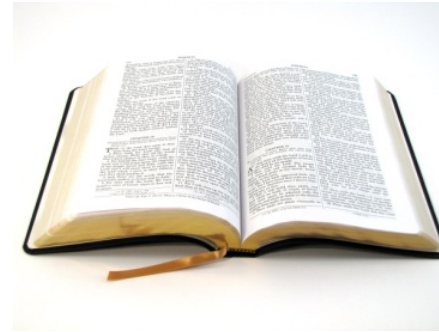
**Your short response & what to respond to the other person**



# Session 3: Walking Together with Jesus

- Symbols and Supplies

- Image of the Path in the center with Jesus and two people
- On a table
  - **Bible**
  - **Basket with V Encuentro Wristbands** (1 for each participant )
- Music and player/speaker
- Prayer (Celebrate)



## TERCERA SESION comenzar con la Oración Compartida

Canto: Un Pueblo que Camina

Lectura : Guía: pg.27 Lc. 24, 25 -29  
y reflexión.

Siguen con el Plan para la 3ra. Sesión

Siguen con la practica con las  
preguntas del Diario diocesano de  
misión y consulta.

Al terminar (Celebrar, Guía pg. 32)proceden en procesión alrededor del salón siguiendo a personas que llevan la Biblia y una vela grande. Después de la siguiente oración, con el Canto “Salgamos a llevar el Evangelio” todos besan o veneran la Palabra de Dios, y reciben un brazalete.



## Plan for Session 3

<p><b>III. Walking Together with Jesus</b></p>	<p><b>To deepen our call to be missionary disciples.</b></p>	<p><b>To See: Our people participate in the cross, but the risen one invites us to understand its meaning</b></p> <p><b>To think: Jesus explains: we must die to live based on the Word.</b></p> <p><b>Jesus urges us to understand our life's purpose. As disciples, the night terrifies us and we want Jesus to stay with us.</b></p> <p><b>To Act: Inviting Jesus personally and in community</b></p> <p><b>To Celebrate: Ritual pages 31-32</b></p>	<p><b>Maintain relationship with the person with various gestures.</b></p> <p><b>Intentionally seek for a moment to express something about the Word of God.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. What role does Scripture play in your life and that of your family? Give examples</b></li><li><b>2. What opportunities does your parish offer for your continual encounter with Jesus?</b></li><li><b>3. In what ways has your parish called you to be a missionary disciple.</b></li><li><b>4. How have the sacraments impacted your life and the life of your family? Give examples</b></li></ol>
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Practice with the questions from the Diocesan Mission & Consultation Manual **15 minutes**

- 1. What role does Scripture play in your life and that of your family? Give examples  
**Your short response & what to respond to the other person**
- 2. What opportunities does your parish offer for your continual encounter with Jesus?  
**Your short response & what to respond to the other person**

Practice with the questions from the Diocesan Mission & Consultation Manual **15 minutes**

- 3. In what ways has your parish called you to be a missionary disciple.  
**Your short response & what to respond to the other person**
  
- 4. How have the sacraments impacted your life and the life of your family? Give examples  
**Your short response & what to respond to the other person**

# Session 4: Bearing Fruits of New Life

- Symbols and Supplies
  - Image of a path in the center
  - **Candle**
  - Basket with **bread** (for all to share)
  - Music and player/speakers
  - Prayer (Celebrate)
    - **Tea light candles** for all participants are optional



## **FOURTH SESSION to begin with the PRAYER**

Song: Our Hearts Burned Within Us

Reading : Guide: pg.27 Lc. 24, 29 -36  
and reflection.

Continue with the Plan for the 4th. Session

Continue with the practice of the questions  
from the Diocesan Journal of Mission  
and Consultation

At the end (Celebrate, Guide pg. 40) after sharing the bread and the following prayer, a candle could be passed from hand to hand saying: “I pray that you may be able to bring the Light of Christ to those peripheries you have encountered” and finish with the song “Un Pueblo en Marcha” (or another).

## Plan for Session 4

<p><b>IV. Bear ing fruits of new life</b></p>	<p><b>Getting ready for the evangelizing mission and consultation in the peripheries.</b></p>	<p><b>To See: take into account how the Hispanic people with what little they have has multiplied blessings like yeast. Despite our limitation, we have flourished.</b></p> <p><b>To think: The demanding call to bear abundant fruit. Apply to ourselves the rule that the tree is known by its fruits ... The Eucharist nourishes us for this task.</b></p> <p><b>To Act: Align our actions to the merciful action of Christ.</b></p> <p><b>To Celebrate: The light does not go out, the bread comforts us Pg. 40</b></p> <p><b>Going out: Walking with the people</b></p>	<p><b>Take on an initiative to help in solidarity to a greater reality.</b></p> <p><b>Identify potential resources.</b></p> <p><b>Let people know about Church organizations.</b></p> <p><b>Invite people who are actively involved in the peripheries to give testimony to our groups about how much can be done.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1 How do you live your baptismal call to be a missionary disciple?</b></li><li><b>2. In what ways have you responded to Pope Francis' call to respond to the needs of society in light of our Catholic identity?</b></li><li><b>3. Name some examples of acts of mercy that you see the parishes offer and have worked well</b></li><li><b>4. What kind of hospitality does our parish offer? Identify 3 actions that express a welcoming attitude. Is this enough? Is that what people expect?</b></li></ol>
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Practice with the questions from the Diocesan Mission & Consultation Manual **15 minutes**

- 1. How do you live your baptismal call to be a missionary disciple?  
**Your short response & what to respond to the other person**
- 2. In what ways have you responded to Pope Francis' call to respond to the needs of society in light of our Catholic identity?  
**Your short response & what to respond to the other person**

Practice with the questions from the Diocesan Mission & Consultation Manual **15 minutes**

- 3. Name some examples of acts of mercy that you see the parishes offer and have worked well  
**Your short response & what to respond to the other person**
- 4. What kind of hospitality does our parish offer? Identify 3 actions that express a welcoming attitude. Is this enough? Is that what people expect?  
**Your short response & what to respond to the other person**

# Session 5: Celebrating the Joy of Being Missionary Disciples



- Symbols and Supplies

- Image of the Path in the center  
Large Cross

- Basket with the **V Encuentro Crosses**

- Candle and Open Bible

- Prayer



- Side table with wreath of flowers and white cloth
- White paper cross and pens
- Tape



## **FIFTH SESSION begin with the Prayer**

Song: Santa Maria del Camino or other  
Reading: Guide pg.43 Lc. 24, 32 -35  
and reflection

Continue with the Plan for the 5th. Session  
Continue with the practice with the diocesan Jour  
Mission and Consultation



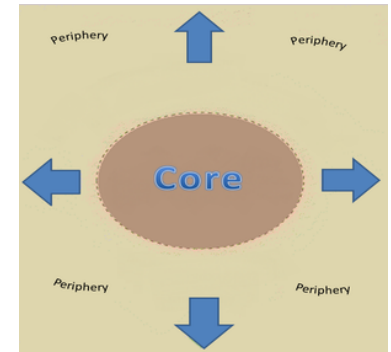
At the end(Celebrate, Guide pg. 48) after the following prayer,  
a cross is given to each one and they are invited to decorate  
them in celebration (or they can take it home and do it with  
their children) Ending Song is “Nuestra Alegría” (or one  
similar).

## Plan for Session 5

<p><b>V. Celebrating the joy of being missionary disciples</b></p>	<p><b>To celebrate and deepen the strength we find in celebrating with gratitude and joy for life. Sum up the experience and the results of the consultation process and determine its pastoral implications.</b></p>	<p><b>To See: The Encounter with Christ quenches all fear, returns joy and promptness. Identify the blessings received that have led us to "have a party" about it.</b></p> <p><b>To think: The Eucharist is the highest festive expression of our communities. Have we found in the Eucharist nourishment and the enthusiasm to go out in mission?</b></p> <p><b>There are many fears that we still need to let go to be able to become a community.</b></p> <p><b>To Act: Community of missionary disciples in everything we do</b></p> <p><b>To Celebrate: With The Cross we will win p.48. Going out: The firm resolution to proclaim the gospel</b></p>	<p><b>To continue evangelizing and preparing the parish Encuentro</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Share 3 main blessings that people you encountered during this process, recognized in their lives</b></li><li><b>2. What actions will you take to be an evangelizer, from now on?</b></li><li><b>3 What insights do you see unveiling in the Encuentro process?</b></li><li><b>4 Point out 3 celebrations that you think are key to pass on our faith to the new generations.</b></li></ol>
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# The Periphery?

- Places where our sisters and brothers are vulnerable, excluded, treated as outsiders, living in fear, isolated, ignored, invisible.
- Pope Francis reminds us that as baptized Christians, Catholics must embrace the call from Jesus Christ “to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the ‘*peripheries*’ in need of the light of the Gospel.”
- Each community, each family, each person must **identify** the immediate **peripheries** and then **go** and **meet people there** with a message of love and hope in a spirit of accompaniment.
- Many Hispanic Catholics—as well as other Catholics—live in the peripheries of our Church and society.
- We are called to bring the light of the Gospel to all these groups.




# 10 Tips for Missionary Activities

1. Choose your **missionary partner**.  
The Lord sent his disciples in pairs (Lk 10:1).
2. **Pray for wisdom** before going to visit someone.  
**Pray in thanksgiving** after returning.
3. If you are **reaching out to people you know**,  
**contact them in advance** of the visit.
4. If you are going to the **periphery**, **engage**  
**people in a natural and polite way**,  
**showing authentic interest** in  
getting to know them.
5. **Bring some information and bulletin** about your  
parish or faith community to share.



# 10 Tips for Missionary Activities cont.

6. **Be respectful.** Avoid entering into controversies.
7. **Use the questions in the *Mission and Consultation Journal*.**   
Then, listen... listen attentively and lovingly.
8. **Keep the conversation short.**
9. **Write a few notes** and respond to questions in the *Mission and Consultation Journal* after your return.
10. **If you have any questions, consult with the leaders of the V Encuentro team in your parish or faith community.**



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MISSIONARY DISCIPLES: WITNESSES OF GOD'S LOVE





God of Mercy,

You that went out to encounter the disciples

on the way to Emmaus,

grant us a missionary spirit

and send us forth to encounter our brothers and sisters,

to walk along beside them,

listen to their hopes and dreams,

rekindle their faith with the fire of your Word,

prepare them to recognize you in the Eucharist

and send them as missionary disciples

to share the joy of the Gospel to present and future generations

of every race, language and culture.

We ask you this from our burning hearts filled with the Holy Spirit,

in the Name of your beloved Son

and through the intercession of our Mother, Mary of Guadalupe

Star of the New Evangelization

Amen.