

## The Theology of Encounter: Lessons from the Road – Worksheet

### Opening Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, who have taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that in the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A reading from the Gospel According to Luke (Luke 24:13-35)

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. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast.

One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him.

But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

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.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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<u>Thresholds</u>	<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Encounter</u>
<b>Inertia – Denial of Grace</b>	Walk, Discuss, Argue	Jesus himself drew near and walked with them
They stopped, looking downcast.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regret</li> <li>• Disillusionment</li> <li>• Abandonment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw Near</li> <li>• Walk with</li> <li>• Asks two questions</li> </ul>
Grace waits for us. Grace accompanies us, even if we don't recognize it. Grace waits for your <b>answer</b> .		
<b>Reflect:</b> Do I or have I asked God, why have you abandoned me? The question is a contradiction.		
<b>Prayer:</b> Lord, you know. I know. Help me calm myself by resting in you. Let me feel the warmth not of a hot spring but of your divine breath and your warm embrace. Let the spirit of wonder fill my soul. Amen.		
<b>Journey – Openness to Wonder</b>	Questioning	He interpreted to them what referred to him
Some women from our group, however, have astounded us!!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wonder - Alive?</li> <li>• Answers – What to make of this?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taught anew the faith of old</li> <li>• How it spoke to the new</li> </ul>
Grace waits for us. Grace accompanies us, even if we don't recognize it. Grace waits for your <b>question</b> .		
<b>Reflect:</b> Am I responding to the 'smells and bells' of faith? Limiting the divine love to be the natural world and all its wonders? Is the Eucharist cosplay or efficacious? Do I know I am loved? How do I experience love?		
<b>Prayer:</b> Lord, you know. I know. Help me go beyond wonder. Help me discover the contours of love. Let us together, wander across the fields together. Let me feel the love that comes with your divine presence. Let the spirit of refreshment fill my soul. Amen		
<b>Pilgrimage – Intentional Conversion</b>	Invitation/Attention	So he went in to stay with them
Stay with us!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He gave the impression that he was going.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table ministry</li> <li>• Revelation</li> </ul>
Grace waits for us. Grace accompanies us, even if we don't recognize it. Grace waits for your <b>attention</b> .		
<b>Reflect:</b> If to journey is to be in a state of wonder and pilgrimage a state of intentionality, how do you merge these two things without losing the wonder for the plans and allow the plans be formed in a framework of wonder?		
<b>Prayer:</b> Lord, you know. I know. Help me go beyond wonder and plans. Help me discover the healthy balance of wonder and strategy. Pilgrimage with me. Let us together, then enter into the Exodus. Let me enter the divine pathos. Let my spirit empty making room for the passion gift I am honored to be. Amen.		
<b>Exodus – Total Conformity to the Divine Will</b>	Becoming	Exodus/Returning
Were not our <i>hearts burning</i> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entering the passion</li> </ul>
Grace waits for us. Grace accompanies us, even if we don't recognize it. Grace awakens your <b>passion</b> .		
<b>Reflect:</b> If to Exodus is to live the passion of the Christ am I fearful of such a role? Can I ... do I want to drink from the cup? What do I do with God's concern?		
<b>Prayer:</b> Lord, you know. I know. Help me go beyond Pilgrimage and enter and stay firmly in Exodus. Help me discover passion as mission and person. Let us together, walk in your passion. May my life become an expression of your passion and, ultimately, I become your passion. Let me become inseparable from your divine presence, distinct but not apart. Unique but grounded in you, as you, for you. Let the spirit of abandonment fill my soul with divine passion. Amen.		

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**My Life Today**

<b><u>Thresholds</u></b>	<b><u>Characteristics</u></b>	<b><u>Encounter</u></b>
<b>Inertia – Denial of Grace</b>	Walk, Discuss, Argue	Jesus himself drew near and walked with them
	•	•
Grace waits for us. Grace accompanies us, even if we don't recognize it. Grace waits for your <b>answer</b> .		
<b>Reflect:</b>		
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<b>Reflect:</b>		
<b>Prayer:</b> Lord, you know. I know. Help me go beyond wonder. Help me discover the contours of love. Let us together, wander across the fields together. Let me feel the love that comes with your divine presence. Let the spirit of refreshment fill my soul. Amen		
<b>Pilgrimage – Intentional Conversion</b>	Invitation/Attention	So he went in to stay with them
	•	•
Grace waits for us. Grace accompanies us, even if we don't recognize it. Grace waits for your <b>attention</b> .		
<b>Reflect:</b>		
<b>Prayer:</b> Lord, you know. I know. Help me go beyond wonder and plans. Help me discover the healthy balance of wonder and strategy. Pilgrimage with me. Let us together, then enter into the Exodus. Let me enter the divine pathos. Let my spirit empty making room for the passion gift I am honored to be. Amen.		
<b>Exodus – Total Conformity to the Divine Will</b>	Becoming	Exodus/Returning
	•	•
Grace waits for us. Grace accompanies us, even if we don't recognize it. Grace awakens your <b>passion</b> .		
<b>Reflect:</b>		
<b>Prayer:</b> Lord, you know. I know. Help me go beyond Pilgrimage and enter and stay firmly in Exodus. Help me discover passion as mission and person. Let us together, walk in your passion. May my life become an expression of your passion and, ultimately, I become your passion. Let me become inseparable from your divine presence, distinct but not apart. Unique but grounded in you, as you, for you. Let the spirit of abandonment fill my soul with divine passion. Amen.		

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