



## Participant Guide

# Group Study Overview

*The following is a sample schedule for how you will spend each of the sessions for your small group study.*

1. Pray Lectio Divina. (20-30 mins)
2. Recap. Share any thoughts you've had since the last small group pertaining to the Process of Evangelization & Discipleship, discussion last time, etc. (5 mins)
3. Watch the video content. (6-10 mins)
4. Personal Reflection. Reflect, journal, and pray through the personal verification questions. (10-15 mins)
5. Emmaus Walk. Simply a time for a 1-on-1 discussion and prayer. Pair off and share your personal reflection. Conclude the time with pray with one another - what is one thing for which you are grateful and want to thank God? What is one thing you need prayers for at this time? (15-20 mins)
6. Small Group Discussion. (20-30 mins)
7. Practical Application. Are there any particular conclusions you all have come to from prayer and discussion today? Is there anything you feel called to start putting into practice, either in your personal life or as a parish staff/team? If so, what and how will you go about beginning it? Who will hold you accountable? (5-10 mins)
8. Closing Prayer. Suggestion - Beacons of Light Prayer. (2 mins)
9. Going Deeper. Assigned reading from the "PED Diagram Info Packet" that gives a more in-depth explanation of the content covered in the video and discussion.

Total Running Time: 90 mins - 2 hours



# Session 1:

## The Adventure Begins

### 1. Pray Lectio Divina with **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.

## 2. Introduction

- What are you hoping to glean, personally or professionally, as we begin this six-week journey together? What fears or concerns do you have?

## 3. Video for **Session 1**

- "Evangelization happens at the pace of relationship."

## 4. Take some time to reflect on the following:

- At what moment do you feel that your faith journey began?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Who is someone that has accompanied you along your journey of faith? What was that relationship like? How did they help you? What did accompaniment look like?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Who is someone you are accompanying?

## 5. Small Group Discussion

- What images in the video connect with someone on a spiritual journey?
- How might your own journey of faith be represented if you think about the hiking metaphor?
- What does it mean to you that "Evangelization happens at the pace of relationship"? What does that look like?
- What has accompaniment looked like in your own life?
- "Life with Christ is the greatest adventure." Do you feel that this speaks true to your own life, why or why not. Do you think this is the feeling and experience for most people that we serve? What is their experience?
- What experience or knowledge do you have about the Process of Evangelization and Discipleship?
- How might a better understanding of the Process of Evangelization and Discipleship help you with your ministry? How might it help with Beacons of Light and the Evangelization Pathway?

## 6. Emmaus Walk

- What stood out to you from the video? Personal prayer? Small Group?
- Where have you seen God at work in your life? For what are you thankful?
- Where are you struggling right now? For what do you need prayers?

## 7. Practical Application

- Are there any particular conclusions you have come to from prayer and discussion today?
- Is there anything you feel called to start putting into practice, either in your personal life or as a parish staff/team? If so, what and how will you go about beginning it? Who will hold you accountable?

## 8. Closing Prayer

Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother, present our prayer of thanksgiving to your Son. Beg from Him the graces we need to be faithful disciples who follow Him with enthusiasm and joy. May our witness to the love of God bear fruit in our archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts. Teach us to be God's joyful witnesses, to radiate Christ in all we do, so that all people might know, love and follow your Son through this life and into the next. Amen.

## 9. Going Deeper: Read "PED Diagram Info Packet" pages 4-7



## Session 2: Building Bridges of Trust

### 1. Pray Lectio Divina with **John 1: 35 - 42.**

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

2. Recap

- What further thoughts or reflections have you had about the Process of Evangelization & Discipleship since the group last met?

3. Video for **Session 2**

- Pre-trust, trust, and curiosity
- Build bridges of trust.

4. Take some time to reflect on the following:

- Reflect on the people in your life and experiences you've had that have built bridges of trust to Christianity, Jesus, and the Church.

- Have you had an experience that has hindered your trust with Jesus or the Church? Reflect on what happened. What or who helped you to rebuild trust?

## 5. Small Group Discussion

- What images in the video connect with building bridges of trust?
  
- What about Andy's testimony was striking to you? Who or what played a role in Andy's progressing through these early stages of discipleship?
  
- How does Andy understand holiness? What did his relationship with Nick teach him about what it meant to be a disciple of Jesus? What does holiness look like for you, and how does that connect to being a disciple of Jesus?
  
- What does Andy say was a struggle for him in his journey? How can we learn from this to avoid making similar mistakes in our work with others?
  
- What motivates you to share the Gospel with others?
  
- How does the Gospel story we prayed with earlier relate to today's focus of building bridges of trust and these early stages of discipleship?



- How might a better understanding of the Process of Evangelization and Discipleship help you with your ministry? How might it help with Beacons of Light and the Evangelization Pathway?

#### 6. Emmaus Walk

- What stood out to you from the video? Personal prayer? Small Group?
- Where have you seen God at work in your life? For what are you thankful?
- Where are you struggling right now? For what do you need prayers?

#### 7. Practical Application

- Are there any particular conclusions you have come to from prayer and discussion today?
- Is there anything you feel called to start putting into practice, either in your personal life or as a parish staff/team? If so, what and how will you go about beginning it? Who will hold you accountable?

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