



# LENT IS A TIME OF encounter

*Photo by Daniel Helfer for CRS*

## INTRODUCTION

During Lent, we walk with Jesus on his road to death and resurrection. Lent is a time of encounter. And, we can use this season of Lent as a special time to respond to the call to be a Church that goes out to encounter ourselves, our neighbor and our God.

This resource is offered for faith formation with spirituality rooted in:

- The liberation of each young person
- The preferential option for the poor
- Our relationship to the Trinity, centered on Jesus Christ
- Our call to communal and personal conversion through solidarity
- The focus and process of V Encuentro

## STRUCTURE OF RESOURCE

Using the structure of the pastoral circle, we recognize that each youth, from their reality, is a protagonist in their community—exploring diverse ways to express themselves, encounter God and examine the reality of injustice in the world.

To this end, this resource has five sessions designed to reflect on Scripture, create unique opportunities for prayer and build global solidarity—personally and communally.

## SESSION 1

### TAKING THE FIRST STEP/PRIMEREANDO

An encounter with Jesus, who calls us to be missionary disciples for personal and communal conversion.

## SESSION 2

### GETTING INVOLVED/INVOLUCRÁNDOSE

An encounter with our realities as a community of missionary disciples.

## SESSION 3

### ACCOMPANING/ACOMPAÑANDO

An encounter with the presence of injustice that moves us to denounce it, and embrace mercy and global solidarity through accompaniment.

## SESSION 4

### BEARING FRUIT/FRACTIFICANDO

An encounter with our human experience through the presence of Jesus in our life.

## SESSION 5

### CELEBRATING/FESTEJANDO

An encounter with the celebration that is the promise of Jesus' resurrection, and what that means for living a prophetic life of justice and global solidarity.

## SESSION 2: GETTING INVOLVED

**OBJECTIVE:** Participants will name the realities in which they live in—the reality of their joys and struggles—for themselves and for their communities. This will help youth recognize how Jesus moves them to get involved in their various communities, including our one human family.



### OPENING PRAYER

*Creator, present in our realities,  
May we go out to encounter with open  
hearts, ready to examine the realities of the  
world. Inspire us with your mercy and the  
true path to create a world of disciples.  
Amen*



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Give time for participants to reflect and journal about their responses. Play music that encourages a reflective environment.

- In what ways are you engaged in the realities of our world?
- How do you seek to live like Jesus—in a way that is just and supportive of our brothers and sisters on the margins?
- How do you go out in search of God's renewal?



### ACTIVITY: LIFE IN COMMUNION (15 minutes)

**Materials:** Questions in the instructions below

Our lives are a journey in communion. We walk in our realities as a community. And, we are a Church called to conversion through prayer and by following the way of Jesus.

Organize the group into a large circle. Explain that you are going to read a list of phrases that they will complete with one word, aloud, building a communal prayer. The participants should complete the phrases one person at a time, sequentially around the circle. After everyone has responded, continue with the next phrase, and so on, to complete the prayer.

Read the following phrases for participants to complete:

- The world I see is . . .
- What guides me on my journey is . . .
- I commit to . . .



### ACTIVITY: LISTENING TO SACRED SCRIPTURE

John 4:4-14 (20 minutes)

*Use the *Lectio divina* resource in the appendix or at [crsricebowl.org/youth](http://crsricebowl.org/youth) to reflect on the Scripture.*



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What does this Gospel story mean to you?
- What phrase called out to you in the Scripture?
- How do you go out to encounter your neighbor, as Jesus encountered the woman at the well?
- What do you thirst for, and how can you use that thirst to work for a more just world?

## SESSION 2: GETTING INVOLVED



**ACTIVITY:** WORDS IN ACTION (15 minutes)

**Materials:** Bibles or copies of John 4:4-14 for each group of 4 or 5

Written in the sacred Scripture are messages to guide our lives. Jesus teaches us through his words and actions. How can we recognize the message of this passage for our lives, personally and communally? Sometimes we may learn something about ourselves or something about humanity: The Word always has a connection to our realities.

Create groups of four or five people, and ask that they read the Gospel passage together. Give time for the groups to prepare a skit about a situation in which they went out to encounter someone on the peripheries of society. With this skit, the youth should express how they can live Jesus' message of unity with our neighbor, and how people we encounter can teach us many things. Give time for each group to present their skit.



Take time to have participants evaluate and write their reflections about the activity. After some personal reflection, ask participants to share in groups of three or in pairs.



### REFLECTION QUESTION

- What is the message that you received from the activity today?



### FINAL PRAYER

Allow a volunteer to offer a prayer in his or her own words. Then, ask another participant to read these words of Pope Francis:

*"In this 'stepping out' it is important to be ready for encounter. For me this word is very important. Encounter with others. Why? Because faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others. ... We must go out to meet them, and with our faith we must create a 'culture of encounter,' a culture of friendship, a culture in which we find brothers and sisters, in which we can also speak with those who think differently, as well as those who hold other beliefs, who do not have the same faith. They all have something in common with us: They are images of God, they are children of God. Going out to meet everyone, without losing sight of our own position."*

Amen

# APPENDIX

## LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio divina is a way to pray with sacred Scripture through meditation with repetition and imagination.

*Recommendation for the activity:*

Ask the participants to sit comfortably before you begin the exercise. Read the Scripture slowly and with clarity, or invite a volunteer to read to the group using the instructions below.

1. Read the Scripture for the first time. Give time for silence and reflection after you finish the reading.
2. Before reading the Scripture for the second time, ask that participants select a person in the story to focus on for the duration of the reading. Give time for silent reflection after you finish the reading.
3. Read the Scripture for the third time. Give time for silent reflection. Ask participants to share one word or a short phrase that stood out to them in the Scripture.
4. As a group, ask participants to share something about the experience and the messages that they have received from God.

