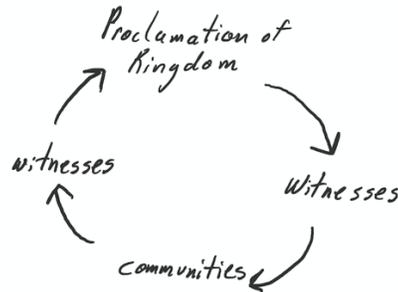


## Adult Formation Break Out

### Accompaniment Quotes

- 169. In a culture paradoxically suffering from anonymity and at the same time obsessed with the details of other people's lives, shamelessly given over to morbid curiosity, the Church must look more closely and sympathetically at others whenever necessary. In our world, ordained ministers and other pastoral workers can make present the fragrance of Christ's closeness and his personal gaze. The Church will have to initiate everyone – priests, religious and laity – into this "*art of accompaniment*" which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other (cf. Ex 3:5). The pace of this *accompaniment* must be steady and reassuring, reflecting our closeness and our compassionate gaze which also heals, liberates and encourages growth in the Christian life. (EG, 169)
- 171. Today more than ever we need men and women who, on the basis of their experience of *accompanying* others, are familiar with processes which call for **prudence, understanding, patience and docility to the Spirit**. We need to practice the art of listening, which is more than simply hearing. Listening, in communication, is an openness of heart which makes possible that closeness without which genuine spiritual encounter cannot occur. Listening helps us to find the right gesture and word which shows that we are more than simply bystanders. Only through such respectful and compassionate listening can we enter on the paths of true growth and awaken a yearning for the Christian ideal: the desire to respond fully to God's love and to bring to fruition what he has sown in our lives." (EG, 171)
- 172. One who *accompanies* others has to realize that each person's situation before God and their life in grace are mysteries which no one can fully know from without. Someone good at such *accompaniment* does not give in to frustrations or fears. He or she invites others to let themselves be healed, to take up their mat, embrace the cross, leave all behind and go forth ever anew to proclaim the Gospel. Our personal experience of being *accompanied* and assisted, and of openness to those who *accompany* us, will teach us to be patient and compassionate with others, and to find the right way to gain their trust, their openness and their readiness to grow. (EG, 172)
- 173. Genuine spiritual *accompaniment* always begins and flourishes in the context of service to the mission of evangelization. Missionary disciples *accompany* missionary disciples. (EG, 173)
- The word "accompaniment" is important to me ... it's one of the things that Pope Francis writes about that speaks to me. He speaks of an "art of accompaniment" that teaches each of us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other. Accompaniment allows us to experience the faithful love of Jesus Christ in a way that is steady... reassuring... and compassionate. When I accompany someone, I do not merely hear them or listen to them as a disinterested bystander. Accompaniment brings about a closeness that opens each of us to an authentic spiritual encounter with the Lord who walks with each of us. It reminds me that I am truly not alone but that the Lord has given me what I need to succeed and to thrive. Missionary disciples are meant to accompany other missionary disciples as well as be accompanied by them. Only in this relationship of accompaniment can the spiritual mission entrusted to each of us truly flourish. (Bishop Fabre)

- “Trajectory” of Evangelization (missionary activity) in Acts:



- “characteristics” of the first Christian community:
  - “So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (Acts 2: 41-47)

#### Mission of the Redeemer Quotes:

- “The Spirit leads the company of believers to “***form a community***,” to be the Church. After Peter's first proclamation on the day of Pentecost and the conversions that followed, the first community takes shape (cf. Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35).
- ***One of the central purposes of mission is to bring people together in hearing the Gospel, in fraternal communion***, in prayer and in the Eucharist. To live in “fraternal communion” (*koinonia*) means to be “of one heart and soul” (Acts 4:32), ***establishing fellowship from every point of view: human, spiritual and material***... The first communities, made up of “glad and generous hearts” (Acts 2:46), were open and missionary: they enjoyed “favor with all the people” (Acts 2:47). Even before activity, mission means witness and a way of life that shines out to others” (RM 26)
- In its origins, then, mission is seen as a ***community commitment***

#### Time for prayer:

1. Do I see my role as carrying on the mission given to the first apostles?
2. What sticks out most about discipleship and “the 5”?

3. Take time to pray with the accompaniment quotes: Is there anything that specifically speaks to me from accompaniment?