



“Walking Together in Solidarity: A Theology of Accompaniment”

This companion study guide and related resources connects the seven faith practices of *Pray, Study, Worship, Invite, Encourage, Serve and Give* to the Practice Discipleship webinar session, “Walking Together in Solidarity: A Theology of Accompaniment.” To view the original webinar and for more information on Practice Discipleship, visit www.practicediscipleship.org.

For group discussion:

Pray

Pray for those who may especially be in need of accompaniment. Examples could include those who:

- Have lost loved ones
- Feel lonely
- Are isolated
- Are abused
- Struggle with faith
- Have been abandoned
- Are incarcerated
- Are in nursing homes
- Are dying
- Are ill
- Are in times of transition

Study

Read Luke 2: 1-20.

- What does it mean that God became fully human?
- What does this imply for us with regards to accompaniment?
- What does it mean to be in accompaniment with someone?

Worship

In the story of the road to Emmaus, Jesus walks alongside his disciples. Walking together, in a very literal sense, can be a form of worship. Consider taking a walk around the neighborhood, praying for those in it. If there is a prayer labyrinth in your area, consider taking a group to walk together or making a simple one in your church (directions on the resource page).

Invite

- Who do you think could use someone to accompany them in their faith walk?
 - What programs are already established (confirmation guides? mentoring?)?
 - Who could you invite to talk about faith?
- Who do you think models accompaniment in your community? Consider inviting that person/s to speak to your group.
- Invite those within your group who accompany to share their own stories.

Encourage

- What are words or phrases of encouragement that you could say to someone as you accompany them?
- What is your story of accompaniment? Who has accompanied you and how has that changed you? Your story may be a source of encouragement to others.
- Who are those in your schools and communities who need encouragement and a reminder that they are not alone? How could you reach out to them? (Locker signs, text messages, visiting, etc.)

Serve

- What are volunteer opportunities to practice accompaniment in your local setting? Examples: Visiting nursing homes or jails, teaching Sunday school, working with confirmation, volunteering with programs at schools or the YM(YW) CA, making care packages for college students.

Give

Many homeless and domestic abuse shelters collect travel bottles of shampoo, conditioner and lotion to give to people as they make a new start. Consider collecting these items and making “kits” to remind people that they are accompanied in their journeys.

Closing prayer: Gracious God, as you walked with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, you walk with us each day. Give us eyes to see you in our neighbors, ears to hear you in those we encounter, and a desire to accompany your children across the globe so we may learn from each other on our journey. Amen.

Related Resources for congregations

Pray

Pray for those in accompaniment ministries: <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Prayer-Center/Prayer-Ventures-2.aspx>

Learn about the ELCA's companion synods throughout the world. Pray for these relationships as we strive to accompany Christ together as a global community. <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Global-Mission/Engage-in-Global-Mission/Companion-synods.aspx>

Download a map of places where the ELCA has accompaniment ministries. Pray for the people and places: <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Global-Mission/Engage-in-Global-Mission/Support/Handy-Resources.aspx>

Study

Download a free Bible study on the Theology of Accompaniment written by the World Council of Churches: http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0CEYQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Ffeppi.org%2Fen%2Fresources%2Ffeppi-publications.html%3Fno_cache%3D1%26cid%3D40360%26did%3D23696%26sechash%3Da7ca7c43&ei=YoKGUf3zNYKg9QSCjYCYAg&usq=AFQjCNFPe6HbVHDpCPluXSZOPHMtC8GOQ&sig2=Yy0nEmjmeuW tQ UMlnfGA&bvm=bv.45960087,d.eWU

Read about stories of accompaniment in the ELCA: http://www.rmselfca.org/world/global_mission/files/accompaniment.pdf

Learn about the ELCA's stance and practices of accompaniment: <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Global-Mission/How-We-Work/Accompaniment.aspx>

Worship

Consider building a temporary prayer labyrinth. Instructions are here: <http://www.nph.com/vcmedia/2369/2369464.pdf>

"We are walking in the light of God" is a hymn that reminds us of accompaniment. It is found on page 866 of the ELW.

"Pray around the Cross" is a worship setting that prays for peace in each country. Order this setting and others: <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Global-Mission/Engage-in-Global-Mission/Resources.aspx>

Invite

The ELCA offers “Glocal” events that connect global accompaniment ministries to communities. Check their schedule and consider inviting others to attend.

<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Global-Mission/Engage-in-Global-Mission/Global-Events/Glocal-Mission-Gatherings.aspx>

Encourage

Many Young Adults in Global Mission spend holidays, perhaps for the first time, far from home and away from their families. Send them cards, notes, and reminders that they are loved. Contact the ELCA offices for more information:

<http://www.elca.org/ELCA/MailTo.aspx?SCLtemID={EF5B29CF-B8AB-4FF2-84AF-E506EB23F891}&To=globalserve@elca.org&undefined>

Serve

Consider service of global accompaniment through the ELCA. <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Global-Mission/Engage-in-Global-Mission/Global-Service.aspx>

Give

Prayerfully consider giving to ministries of global accompaniment:

<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Global-Mission/Engage-in-Global-Mission/Support.aspx>

The ELCA follows a model of accompaniment in its World Hunger program, working through long standing relationships to serve people in need throughout the world. The Good Gifts Catalog invites you to join these partnerships by providing resources for sustainable food and income. <https://community.elca.org/page.aspx?pid=607>

The Practice Discipleship Initiative is a ministry of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network (www.elcaymnet.org), in partnership with the ELCA, ELCA Seminaries and ELCA Colleges. The purpose of Practice Discipleship is to foster faithful, thoughtful and intentional leaders in congregations who follow Jesus in their daily lives. For more information, visit www.practicediscipleship.org.