

RE-ENCULTURATION

PRAYER | COMMUNITY | SIMPLICITY | SERVICE



Opening Prayer

Read aloud together

I never look at the masses –

I look only at the individual.

I can love only one person at a time.

I can feed only one person at a time.

Just one, one, one.

So you begin- I begin.

The whole world is only a drop in the ocean.

But, if we don't put the drop in,

the ocean would be one drop less.

Same thing for you, same thing for your family,

same thing in the church where you go.

Just begin – one, one, one.

“I was hungry, and you gave me to eat.

I was naked, and you clothed me.

I was homeless, and you took me in.”

Hungry not only for bread –

but hungry for love.

Naked not only for clothing –

but naked for human dignity and respect.

Homeless not only for want of a room of bricks –

but homeless because of rejection.

This is Christ in distressing disguise.

- Caring for the Individual - Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

Welcome Back Resource

Read together “Welcome Back Resource”

Group Discussion

Have everyone share their answers for the first question. having someone recording responses. The other questions can be led as a large group discussion.

What did we learn at the farm? Especially regarding:

Food issues

Service

Simplicity

Prayer

Sustainability

Community

How do we live these things on our campus, and in our city, in the here and now? How can we work for these things on the day to day and the systematic levels?

- ❑ How are we going to hold each other accountable as individuals and as a group?
 - Suggestions: keep meeting to check-in and hangout, service trips

Accountability Partners

Accountability Partners will be used throughout the post trip meetings as a way for participants to talk to about your faith life and journey since returning home. Partners will share their goals and check-in every as a way to encourage and support following through with what they intend. As leader, you may choose to assign accountability partners or have them choose their own.

Check-In & Sharing

Introduce the idea of Accountability Partners to the group. Have them meet with their partner and discuss the following questions:

- ❑ What do you most want to take with you from your experience at Bethlehem Fam?
- ❑ How are you going to live these things on our campus, and in your city, in the here and now? How can you work for these things on the day to day and the systematic levels? What are you going to commit to as an individual?
- ❑ How will you hold each other accountable?
 - Examples: Set up regular check-ins, hangouts, or coffee runs.

Individual Commitment

Allow participants time to write down the action(s) they intend to commit to doing. They may use examples from the group discussion, their accountability partner discussion, or come up with something on their own. When finished, they should sign their paper.

Closing Prayer

Close by reading aloud Dawna Markova’s “I Will Not Live an Unlived Life”

I will not die an unlived life.
 I will not live in fear of falling or catching fire.
 I choose to inhabit my days,
 to allow my living to open me,
 to make me less afraid, more accessible,
 to loosen my heart until it becomes a wing, a torch, a promise.
 I choose to risk my significance;
 to live so that which came to me as a seed
 goes to the next as a blossom,
 goes on as fruit

~ by Dawna Markova ~

WELCOME BACK RESOURCE



Welcome Back!

How do you deal with living in the tension? There is always more you can do or be. There is always suffering, poverty, loss, abuse, etc. When you first get back you are full of idealism and enthusiasm but after a while that fades. It fades for different people at different times. You realize you don't fit anymore. Home isn't as comfortable as it used to be, you are asking questions that other people don't seem to think of or find particularly important. You see the connections between your choices and actions and the impact that it has on people who you spent time with, whether that is in the states or in another country. You realize that intentionality is important but to have to think so much about all these things, all the time is incredibly overwhelming. You may get paralyzed by the realization that there is so much in the world that you can't do and so much that you are complicit in. All the systemic injustice: people taking advantage of others living on the margins, often without even realizing it.

People are detached, but right now you are very attached. How do you deal with that?

Good News:

Guess What?! You are not responsible for the whole world. Woot! Isn't that great? So go on and take that weight off your shoulder, Atlas, and put that world down on the ground.

Are you off the hook? Can you go back to your comfy life and forget about everything that you have experienced? NO! Not by a long shot. You are not in charge of saving the world - p.s. that was already done by God.

However, you are responsible for yourself and your actions. You can make a difference by being intentional about what you choose to buy, how you spend your time, how you engage in your local community, who you vote for, basically how you live your life. Make your life a testament to your experiences and the people who you met with such open hearts.

Does that mean going out into the world condemning people for their actions and ways of life?

Does that mean going out into the world and living as an example and challenging yourself to keep an open heart and mind always; loving each person as if they are God him/herself?

You tell me.

Last note: Will this ever put you at peace with the sorrow of the world- not necessarily. You must learn to make peace with yourself and live in the tension. Holding the tension allows you to be open to God and creativity to spring forth. It's not a curse but a blessing.

The action(s) I will commit to:

Your Name:

Date:

My Accountability Partner:

OPENING PRAYER



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