



TORINO 2024

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SIT-DOWN 07/18/2024

Tips for Conjugal Dialogue

Within the framework of this International Gathering that we are carrying out during these days, we are offered, at this moment, a privileged space to make a true and deep conjugal dialogue, in the way proposed by the Teams, that is, inviting Jesus to be present in the midst of both of us.

Although we often do not realize it and do not recognize his presence, he walks with us and can give new meaning to what we live so that our dialogue may be more luminous, intense and fruitful.

It is worth remembering what Marina Marcolini told us when she said that, although he is there, Jesus does not impose himself, but waits for a gesture, an invitation. Therefore, in a kind and simple way, let us invite him to be with us during our dialogue.

Let's avoid distractions and start it with a spontaneous prayer or with this one we propose:

Lord Jesus, you walk beside us and often we do not realize it. This is what happened to these two on the road to Emmaus. You know, Lord, that our path is not always easy, but in uncertainty You invite us to respond to Your call. Give us, Lord, the gift of your presence. Grant us the grace to discern what is happening to us; may we be able to see You in the events of our lives. Help us, with the breath of your Spirit, to interpret our history and let it be your Word that makes the fire of our hearts burn with intensity! We place in your hands our dialogue today".

Now, let us read slowly, once again, the text of the disciples of Emmaus (Lk 24:15-35) and let us share with each other what it is telling us in these days.

"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*



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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."

Then, let's ask ourselves, trying first to reflect personally and then open our hearts and share with our spouse, the individual answers and looking for a concrete convergence as a couple's concern:

- *Is there something that we carry within us that especially concerns us and for which we need the presence of Jesus to help us in understanding and discernment?*
- *Let us reflect: what does the Word of Sacred Scripture arouse in us today, how well do we understand it, how well do we incarnate it in our lives?*
- *In these days, have we been able in some way to find Jesus in the team members we did not know before? In what specific situation? Have we discovered in them something that has caught our attention?*
- *What does it mean, for the two of us, to say to Jesus at this moment "stay with us"? How do we plan to make this invitation come alive and prevent it from being ephemeral?*

Let us end this experience of "three-way dialogue" thanking the Lord for his presence and company and placing our resolutions in his hands with the words that come from our hearts.

At the end of our dialogue, let us remember that many couples came after us according to the order of entry to this stadium, so, when we leave, let us do it silently, respecting this intimate moment that we have already lived and that our international gathering partners are living.

Have a great sit down!!!

