

# The Heart of the Matter Video Series

Accompanying Adult Faith by Dr. Carol Kuzmochka

## Theme:

Helping Adults Grow in a mature responsive Christian faith by responding effectively means reaching people's hearts. Wisdom for creative responses can be found in the Church's catechetical documents and in Transformative Education. One helpful approach that uses this wisdom is, WATER—modelled on Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well will be explored.

## Welcome and Pre-Video Activity:

- Create space where participants can easily interact with one another (a semicircle?).
- Offer a strong welcome that expresses appreciation for the gifts each person brings to the gathering;
- Take time for each to share the joys and challenges of facilitating adult faith formation and affirm the good work being done;
- Offer a prayer that highlights the rich exchange between Jesus and the Samaritan woman;
- Portray a copy of the painting of this encounter used in the video;
- Read (John 4) and provide an opportunity for each participant to identify what touches them about the exchange between;
- Jesus and the woman; "What is one thing you recognize in this exchange that makes it such an effective learning experience?"

## Introducing the Video:

There is much wisdom and help for the challenging work of accompanying adult faith. This video offers some important information, points of reflection and a method that can help reach the hearts of people.

## The Heart of the Matter:

The Learning Goals of this video are as follows:

- Educating in/Accompanying adult faith is one of the great challenges of our time. There is a faith/life disconnect that needs to be healed.
- There is much wisdom/help in the Church's documents and in the field of transformative education.
- Two principles from the General Directory for Catechesis show how these are present in a pattern Jesus uses to create learning spaces.
- WATER can be used as an acronym for this pattern and makes it an accessible process with which we can accompany adult faith.

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## Learning Activities - Engaging the Heart:

- Participants could be invited to intentionally watch and listen for ideas/insights that resonate for them as they watch the video and to make notes to serve as discussion points.
- Participants can be invited to share the ideas/insights they noted and all can be invited to discuss them.
- The following questions may help to guide the discussion: what is a point that strikes me/stays with me? What do I find affirming/encouraging? Is there something I've discovered I'd like to explore further? What might be helpful for my work? How might WATER help me shape my accompaniment of adult faith? What is one concrete thing I might do to integrate something I've learned from this session into my practice?

## Review - Gathering the Learning:

Participants might be invited to identify one concrete thing they will do to enrich their practice with new insight from the session. All can be invited to share a few words of affirmation and encouragement for one another.

## Closing:

Joyce Rupp, *Poem Cup of Life*, p. 45

*Generous God  
so many times I've come  
with my empty cup  
a beggar of the heart  
devoid of nourishment  
depleted of energy*

*and you have filled*

*Generous God  
so many times I've come  
afraid of unknowns  
full of negatives and no's  
fighting the challenges  
closed and resistant to growth*

*and you have opened*

*Generous God  
so many times I've come  
a stranger to my spirit  
crammed with cultural noise  
caught in endless clutter  
crowding my inner space*

*and you have emptied*

*Generous God  
I come to you again  
holding out my waiting cup  
begging that it first be emptied  
of all that blocks the way  
then asking for its filling  
with love that tastes like you*

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE HEART OF THE MATTER VIDEO](#)

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### Resources:

Congregation for the Clergy, *The General Directory for Catechesis* (Rome: Vatican Press), 1997.

Mary Elizabeth Mullino Moore, chapter 7, in *Teaching from the Heart: Theology and Educational Method* (Pennsylvania: Trinity Press International), 1998.

Leona English, "Adult Education of the Laity: A Church Concern," in *THEOFORUM*, (Ottawa: Saint Paul University), Vol. 41 No 1/2010.