



Principles for Smaller Scale Ministry | Accompany Others to a Destination

Prioritize the people that we serve by setting aside time to walk with them. To share their journey, know their story, and walk alongside them as they grow closer to Christ in His Church

Tips for Walking with Others - journeying with them in their life, knowing their stories, I see your experience and I'm with you in it. I see the difficulty and also the potential. I see where you're at and I love you where you're at, but I also want to walk you.

Three Ways We Accompany Others

1. Pray

- Ask the Lord, who is it that he's inviting you to accompany in a deeper way.
- Lift each person specifically by name up to the Lord in prayer.
- Set aside time every day to pray for their needs.
 - Ask the Lord how He's inviting us to walk with and be in communion with them.
 - Ask Him to change your heart and open your heart to the people he's calling you to serve. "Lord give me your eyes to see them and your heart to love them."

2. Know Their Story

- Prioritize time to just get to know them. People are not projects. They're not a task to check off your list. They are souls with a story.
- Listen deeply.
 - Make sure you're not just thinking of your next question, but genuinely listening to their joys and sorrows and noticing the details.
 - Make eye contact, put technology down, and be present.
 - Ask intentional questions - deeper than how is your day? Show them that you value them and are attentive to them.
- God loves them more than you do. If you're struggling to get to know and love them, take it back to prayer again.

3. Genuine Care

- Desire their good and let them know that you desire their good.
- Empathize with what they're experiencing.
- Be there for them and care for them in the midst of their experience right now.

Destination

Our desire for each person we accompany is that they would come to know that they are deeply loved by God. While we walk with them in whatever they face or choose, our ultimate desire is that we could help them to take their next step in their journey into deeper relationship with God and God's will for their life.

- We are leading them toward a destination. For example, we don't just notice that they're bleeding. That's a good start, but then if we love them, we also help them to get some first aid.
 - We hope and pray that our presence and love bring healing, but we are not the healer.
 - We are joining them on the journey, not getting them to a destination. You are not their savior, you can't take their burdens, you can't fix them, but you can be a key player in that story.
 - You can be an example, to model what it is to love and how to take our next steps.
- To the extent possible, we go with them on their journey.
 - The journey of accompaniment doesn't just stop when we get to know them. Nor does it stop when they get to their first destination.
 - If the destination is a specific thing that they're stepping toward, such as going back to Mass, when possible, we go with them. If their goal is to pray 15 minutes every day, perhaps you agree to pray the same 15 minutes or even meet at the chapel to pray together. Let them see not only that you care about getting to know them but supporting them on their journey
- We're not measuring them/evaluating them, or judging ourselves based on how they are growing or if they have reached a certain level.
- Patience: we encourage them, but growth is on God's timeline.
- Humility: we don't know what's happening in their heart.
- Mary, Blessed Mother, is our model. She was there every step of the way, feeling Jesus' aches and pains with him. She didn't try to take his cross away. She simply stood with him, loving him.