

**Encounter Three:
Talking about What is Central to Our Faith**

Review and celebrate all that God did and does as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and how Each Member of the TRINITY is involved in the Good News of Jesus Christ for us.

NOTE: this is a very important Encounter, and may require greater length. The topics here may need to be continued into your next Encounter. This is at the core of our faith!

1. Begin by briefly sharing any “highs” and “lows” since your last meeting together.
2. Read the **Meaning of Article 1** of the Creed in the Catechism. Then read **John 15:9-17**. Discuss God the Father’s role in relation to the Son, and to us. The student should take careful notes for the paper! Read **John:17:11** and do the same.
3. Read the **Meaning of Article 2** of the Creed in the Catechism. Read **1 Corinthians 15:1-11** together. How did news of the greatest event ever get to us?
4. Read **Galatians 3:1-11**. What does God’s “law” do? What does God’s “gospel” do? What do we get from the “law?” What do we get from the “gospel?”
5. Use the following questions to talk about the Gospel story and its meaning for our lives as you share your thoughts with one another.
 - a. Do you know someone who would say that the Gospel of Jesus has helped them in their life? In what situations and circumstances has the Gospel been important, and why?
 - b. Can you remember when you’ve made a big mistake and been very sorry for your actions? [Affirm that what is told will not be shared with anyone else.]
 - c. What good news does the Gospel have for us when we have sinned? How is Jesus a part of the story? How does this change our lives? See **Ephesians 2:3-5**
 - d. Remember times in your life when you felt worthless or ashamed? [Share in confidence.] What good news does the Gospel have for us in such times? How is Jesus involved in such circumstances? How does this change our lives?
 - e. Can you think of times in your life when you felt defeated or hopeless? What does the Gospel say about that?
 - f. In the struggles of life when we feel separated from God because of our actions or because of the situations we find ourselves in, how can we remember the Jesus promises his forgiveness, love, and life forever? What will help us remember these things?
6. Read the **Meaning of Article 3** of the Creed from the Catechism. Then read **John 16:12-15**. Discuss the Spirit’s role in relation to the Father and the Son, and to us. Take notes for the paper! Read Romans **8:12-17** and do the same. Finally, read **1 Corinthians 12:3** and do the same.

Close your Encounter with prayer, hopefully focused on what God does for us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Include God’s role in helping each of you through any situations of sinning, feeling alone, sensing discouragement, loss of hope, or struggles of faith. Decide who will begin and who will conclude the prayer.