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FACE to FACE

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THE UPPER ROOM®

# TEAM MANUAL

FACE TO FACE TEAM MANUAL  
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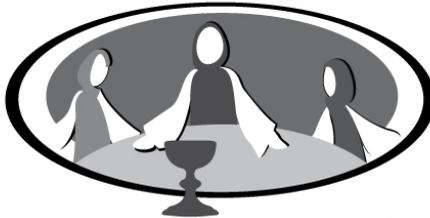
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# INTRODUCTION



You probably have served on a Walk to Emmaus team, but this may be your first experience with Face to Face: A New Experience on the “Walk to Emmaus.” This program has been developed to meet the needs of a specific audience.

## FEATURES UNIQUE TO FACE TO FACE

The following information will help you understand the difference and uniqueness of Face to Face:

- Face to Face has Encounters; Emmaus has Walks.
- Face to Face has Next Days; Emmaus has Fourth Days.
- Participants are Pilgrims in both Face To Face and Emmaus.
- Face to Face is a complete spiritual experience in the spirit of The Walk to Emmaus designed specifically for seniors, 60 years and older. All the core elements of Emmaus are included in Face to Face.

Avoid comparing Face to Face with Emmaus in your discussions with pilgrims. By doing so, you run the risk of representing Face to Face as a second-rate experience. Emmaus offers a different route to the same destination. The Face to Face Encounter will offer participants a spiritually enriching experience.

The team makeup for Face to Face differs slightly from Emmaus. The following positions are new to this model.

- **Logistics Leader** is responsible for the host venue facilities as well as recruiting pilgrims for the Encounter.
- The **Lay Director** takes responsibility for recruiting the Agape Leader for the Encounter. This person will recruit additional persons to assist them.
- There are two **Coaches**, and they function like Assistant Lay Directors (ALDs). One of them also functions as the Emmaus Community Board Representative. The Coaches are involved in the Encounter from the outset and help select the host venue and set the Encounter dates.
- **Media Leader** is responsible for sound and video including organizing PowerPoint slides and operating the projector.

The talks for Face to Face are the same as Emmaus with the following important differences:

- The talk outlines are tailored to meet the needs of the participants. The standard Emmaus long-form outlines serve as the basis for Face To Face talks. Specific changes required are noted in the talk outline section.
- The PRIORITY talk is only ten minutes long.
- COPING IN TOUGH TIMES is a new talk and is usually given by a hospice representative or a person has lost a life partner.
- PERSEVERANCE IN THE NEXT DAY is a combination of the Emmaus PERSEVERANCE and FOURTH DAY talks. Total time is twenty minutes, devoting about ten minutes to each subject.
- While Face to Face offers no STUDY talk, other talks emphasize the importance of study. Omit all references to the three-legged stool in the PIETY and CHRISTIAN ACTION talks.

Each talk has a standard one-page outline that is handed out to the Pilgrims at the start of the talk to assist them in taking notes. If speakers have additional handouts, they go in the packets for distribution at the end of the Encounter.

There is only one Table Leader at each table in Face to Face, and that person also gives one of the talks. Positions do not rotate between talks and there is no poster drawing time. Pilgrims are encouraged to take plenty of notes, and there is table discussion after each talk. When the Table Leader is giving a talk, one of the coaches will fill in at the table for the talk and subsequent table discussion.

A component new in the Face to Face model is the video presentation of four meditations by Rueben Job from *Living Fully, Dying Well*.

The leadership will adjust the flow of Face to Face sessions based on the available facilities and the fact that participants are seniors, some of whom will have limited mobility or other constraints. Be open to different approaches.

Posters will be projected (PowerPoint). This media allows participants to see and read text more easily. Content should be basic and largely text. Avoid fancy graphics. We want the pilgrims to focus on the speaker.

The Encounter is all about the pilgrims. We have had our Walk or Encounter and while this Encounter may spiritually uplift us, our role comes in reflecting God's love and grace to the pilgrims. Please be prompt, follow instructions, and focus on this Encounter.

If you sense problems during the Encounter, please bring them to the attention of the Lay Director, Spiritual Director, or Coaches.

The Logistics Leader assigns pilgrims to tables prior to the Encounter. Pilgrims learn of their assigned table when they register on the first day.

## THE BASIS AND PURPOSE OF FACE TO FACE

Those of us who have produced the Face to Face material work from the powerful Walk to Emmaus model, which has produced a remarkable record. The program began in The Upper Room about thirty years ago and so far we have welcomed more than one million Emmaus pilgrims. That phenomenal response has occurred because Emmaus—a “Short Course in Christianity”—is a dynamic three-day spiritual event.

Emmaus exists to renew the church as the body of the risen Christ in the world through the spiritual formation and development of Christians as faithful, committed disciples of Jesus Christ. Persons who renew and

strengthen their spiritual lives through Emmaus are called to share within their community—and beyond—the grace they receive.

## **HISTORY AND SCOPE OF EMMAUS**

In 1975, Danny E. Morris, Director of Developing Ministries for The Upper Room, participated in a Lutheran Cursillo in Florida and recognized the need for an ecumenical offering of Cursillo. On the same weekend, Maxie Dunnam, then World Editor of The Upper Room, participated in a prayer retreat at First United Methodist Church in Peoria, Illinois where Catholic Cursillistas were table servants for participants at the retreat. Their spiritual presence about the tables as they served deeply moved him.

Together, Danny and Maxie began to take steps toward including Cursillo as an Upper Room program. Under the leadership of Robert Wood, The Upper Room's first two model Cursillo Weekends were held in Peoria in 1977. In 1978, Robert Wood joined the staff of The Upper Room to launch the new Upper Room Cursillo movement. Under his leadership, the new model of "The Walk to Emmaus" (for adults) and "Chrysalis" (for youth) were created and implemented. Since the beginning of the program, one million pilgrims (by actual count) have made their Walk.

In the Emmaus Walk an interdenominational group of forty to fifty persons enters a unique communal experience. From Thursday evening until Sunday evening, they listen to fifteen talks that cover the waterfront in Christian spirituality. The participants laugh and listen, worship and wonder, eat lots and sleep little. And many have testified to the life-giving experience of those three days.

## **FACE TO FACE: A NEW MODEL**

The goal of this Face to Face material is to resource a group within the Christian community to provide leadership for a spiritual formation experience for individuals—in community—customized to meet the needs and requirements of retired persons. The overarching theme is "Living in Grace."

Face to Face is designed for the following audience: Persons age sixty and older. Their health risks and energy levels require a longer schedule than three days and shorter sessions than is typical of Emmaus. Theoretically,

cally, Emmaus values and rituals are compatible with the needs and interests of seniors.

Because of the age and physical circumstances of the Face to Face audience, major adjustments have been made to the authorized Emmaus manuals. These required alterations are dictated by the age of senior constituents and their stamina and also by the scarcity of space in senior living communities. This adapted model presents the basic theological and biblical content of Emmaus without the typical Emmaus format.

This amended model will function under the sponsorship and guidance of and accountability to current local Emmaus Boards that choose to sponsor it. Local Emmaus communities and Conference Room Team members will use this material in the formation and goals of leadership.

Our experience over these eight sessions is not a Walk to Emmaus. This is an adaptation of that retreat model, tailored to meet senior men and women on their own terms. One notable change: We will not ask pilgrims to remove their watches, since the reason for the request does not exist in this environment. We shall hear abbreviated versions of the talks the pilgrims hear in an Emmaus Walk. The sessions will offer exciting and hospitable opportunities for Christian learning. The vital Christian community we are forming here will feature systematic theology, tasty refreshments, lots of laughs, and several surprising personal encounters and memorable spiritual breakthroughs! Also, we shall worship, sing, joke with one another, experience an avalanche of God's grace, and talk about no one but Jesus and ourselves—together! Most of us will fare better in this model that is tailor-made for us—by one of us!

We anticipate that this simpler, amended model will offer multiple surprises, strengths, and delights to older adults like us! For now—welcome home!

The model has been authorized by the International Office of The Walk to Emmaus at Upper Room Ministries. It shall be scheduled, implemented, and evaluated under the supervision of each local Emmaus Board and is open to all denominational and ethnic groups. (See Team Manual preface for a comparison of Face to Face and Walk to Emmaus programs.)



# GENERAL CLARIFICATIONS FOR LEADING FACE TO FACE ENCOUNTERS



Face to Face is not a closed society but a movement within Christianity. The team members express thanks that the events of these eight sessions are gifts of God's grace to our new sisters and brothers in Christ and to us! The following maxim expresses the team's desires for this community of faith:

*Pray as if everything depended on Christ;  
Work as if everything depended on all of us!*

## THE NEXT DAY

The Catholic Cursillo model—forerunner of the Walk to Emmaus—spans three days in spiritual retreat. The leaders characterized all that followed the retreat as the Fourth Day—all the rest of one's life! Face to Face will use the term Next Day.

## PREPARATION FOR AND FLOW OF THE EIGHT SESSIONS

The team has spent several weeks in prayerful preparation for our time together. The flow of these eight sessions has distinct phases:

## GENERAL CLARIFICATIONS

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### **Sessions 1 and 2**

We center on God and the grace God offers.

Three of the talks will focus on the “priesthood of all believers” living in grace.

### **Sessions 3 and 4**

The theme is about knowing Christ personally.

The talks shift attention to Christ teaching pilgrims how to be apostles and/or spiritual leaders.

### **Sessions 5 and 6**

Attention focuses on the Holy Spirit’s equipping Jesus’ disciples to be Jesus’ body, the church. The talks on these two days develop the theme of how Christian community looks in action.

By this time in the retreat, an enthusiastic spirit will prevail within this Face to Face community. The pilgrims may begin thinking about the end of this Encounter. Rather than trying to anticipate what is ahead, it will be more productive to live in the moment.

### **Session 7**

A hospice leader will speak directly to subjects that many “seniors” share in common: “What do I have left? How do I cope with my loss?”

### **Session 8**

Persevering in our call and vocation.

## **GENERAL SCHEDULE**

Re written talks for this constituency will feature the current biblical and theological emphases of Emmaus. When feasible, the talks will have additional content directed to coping with aging.

Clergy talks will be given by the Spiritual Director and up to four additional clergy. All additional clergy will be asked to be present for the entire session on the day they speak.

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In order to encourage pilgrims to take notes, handouts for talks are not handed out immediately after the talk. They are placed in the pilgrims' packets for distribution at the end of the Encounter.

## TABLE LEADER GUIDELINES

The Table Leader is responsible for facilitating discussion and attending to the general well-being of the pilgrims at the table. Table Leaders should

- Encourage participation from each person at the table.
- Not overreact to statements or let other pilgrims overreact. Pay attention to the progression of ideas expressed by the pilgrims; report any serious problems to the Spiritual Director.
- Take extensive notes as an example to the pilgrims.
- Anticipate and encourage the pilgrims to give everything they can by your good example in all you do.
- Be careful not to dominate.
- Listen, listen; love, love.



# TALK OUTLINES



## TALK #1 PRIORITY

(10 minutes)

*“What will I do with my life?”*

Compress length to 10 minutes. (This talk does not start with the “Prayer to the Holy Spirit”).

### Outline

- Some basic differences distinguish humans from the rest of the created order. For one thing, humans can set priorities. This means we can choose an ideal. We have imagination, the power of reason, and the ability to dream dreams.
- The created order is remarkable because of three unique kingdoms:
  1. Plants: No one seems to know how many types of plants there are in the world. In our garden I myself have actually killed many types. Have you ever heard of a blue thumb? (I have one right here!)
  2. Animals: Our world is full of animals. The good news is that we are supposed to be on the top of the animal heap.
  3. Minerals: Minerals are rich and valuable.

## TALK OUTLINES

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- Of all the kingdoms, only the top on the top level—animals—can develop and expedite a priority.
- Definition of *priority*: “A preferential rating; meriting attention before competing alternatives.”
  - Your priority signifies something of value in your life.
  - Your priority is what you live for.
  - Your priority is a major shaper of your values.
- Don’t pass another night without identifying your priorities. You will probably start with family. Then add possessions to your list. Your work may fall somewhere near the top of your list—especially, if you like your job. Money and time have great value to you. Try running out of money and see what happens. (But don’t try running out of time!)
- List your five or six top priorities. After jotting them down, judge their value. Does one or more need to be
  - Discarded?
  - Changed?
  - Enhanced?

## TALK #2 PREVENIENT GRACE

(20 minutes)

*God's grace envelops us.*

No changes to standard talk outline.

### Outline

- It is God's nature to be infinitely creative, loving, and good.
- The human situation: created in the image of God, fallen from grace through sin, offered salvation in the reconciling work of Jesus Christ.
- God loves us and desires a relationship with us—even more than we desire a relationship with God.
- Definition of prevenient grace—God's love pursuing us, awakening and convincing us to come home.
- Prevenient grace prepares us for the “moment of decision.” It is the hidden hand of God working in us.
- The loving acts of others also communicate God's love to us.
- Personal statement by presenter on how he or she became aware of God's love.
- For table discussion: “When and where have I experienced grace in my spiritual journey?”



## TALK #3 PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

(20 minutes)

*We share grace with others.*

No changes to standard talk outline.

### Outline

- The world does not know how to cooperate with God’s grace.
- The answer to the needs of the world comes in the salvation offered in Jesus Christ.
- The Roman Catholic Church is noted for the spiritual office of “priest.” The Protestant Church is noted for lay and clergy being “priests to one another.” In either case, a priest acts as God’s representative to persons in the world.
- Attempts to define “world” often lead to the language of grandiosity. Yet the world of senior living is noted for becoming increasingly restrictive. This is our “world”—to be priests to one another!
- The church consists of people who have experienced God’s love and grace, who live in relationship with God and share their relationship with others.
- Personal statement by presenter about her or his experience of functioning as God’s representative in ministry to the world.

## TALK #4 JUSTIFYING GRACE

(20 minutes)

*How do you respond to God's grace? (I accept.)*

No changes to standard talk outline.

### Outline

- God loves us unconditionally as we are, for “while we still were sinners Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).
- While prevenient grace beckons us and convinces us of our need for God, justifying grace moves us to accept the gift of a loving relationship with God as the priority and wellspring for our life.
- Justifying grace gives us a new heart; enables us to be born again, to be born of the Spirit.
- Justifying grace is also known as conversion, new birth, being born again, saved from sin, and being born of the Spirit.
- Of all the changes we may experience (or offer) a community of retired persons, the greatest is spiritual conversion. Here is how I have experienced it (or have seen it happen)—[relate your personal witness].

Acts of agape demonstrate God's love for us through the prayer and sacrifice of others on our behalf.

## TALK #5 LIFE OF PIETY

(20 minutes)

*Living a life of devotion to God.*

Since there is no **GROW THROUGH STUDY** talk, do not refer to the three-legged stool.

### Outline

- Prayer is the language we use to communicate with God and to express our relationship with God.
- The scriptures provide us with knowledge about the mind, heart, and will of God.
- We can nurture our relationship with God through the spiritual discipline of living in God's presence.
- The life of piety is not "pious-ity" but natural, manly/womanly, courageous, believable, and joyful.
- Personal statement by presenter about his or her experience of prayer and its practice.

## TALK #6 MEANS OF GRACE

(35 minutes)

*Ways I receive and live in grace.*

No changes to standard talk outline.

### Outline

- The sacraments are those acts of worship, instituted by Christ, in which Christ is represented to us in such a way that we experience his presence anew in our lives.
- All Christian traditions recognize baptism and Holy Communion as sacraments.
- Important spiritual practices: prayer, scripture reading, meditation, worship, and spiritual direction.
- Characteristics of a life of piety: attentiveness, honesty, authenticity, communication, and resourcefulness.
- These practices and characteristics need not diminish in our process of aging!
- Other means of grace include the sacred moments in which Christ is made real to us through symbolic action or ritual, whereby we overcome some form of living death at work in us as God restores us to life.
- By grace through faith the Holy Spirit renews our spirits using every means of grace.
- How have you experienced sacramental moments through the many gifted persons in our community? (Await answers from the group.)

(At Communion services, participants may attend the services to receive the elements or cross their arms across their chests to receive a spiritual blessing.)

## TALK #7 CHRISTIAN ACTION

(20 minutes)

*Sharing Christ with others.*

Since there is no **GROW THROUGH STUDY** talk, do not refer to the three-legged stool.

### Outline

- This process begins when individual lives become Christ-centered.
- We give our hearts to Christ (piety); we give our minds to Christ through our (study) of the Word; and we give our hands and feet to Christ (action).
- We can help others know Christ by making friends, being a true friend, and sharing with friends our most important relationship—Jesus Christ.
- Where have you seen Christian action in this community? (Talk about a couple of examples.)
- How would you characterize these acts? As surprising? unusual? expected?
- What do you think prompted these acts?

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## TALK #8 OBSTACLES TO GRACE

(20 minutes)

*How I respond to impediments to a life of grace.*

No changes to standard talk outline.

### Outline

- Becoming aware of and admitting our obstacles to grace is the first step to overcoming them.
- We overcome all obstacles to our relationship with Christ and with our neighbor through spiritual guidance, daily prayer, and repentance—and surrendering anew to God’s direction in our lives.
- Which obstacles are peculiar to being older? Presenter names three or four. Ask the group to (name and then discuss) others.



## TALK #9 DISCIPLESHIP

(20 minutes)

*Commitment to “being Christ” in the church and the world.*

No changes to standard talk outline.

### Outline

- Discipleship entails responding to Christ’s call with heart, head, hands, and feet.
- As disciples, walking with our Lord and growing in his likeness is our highest personal goal.
- Our individual response to Christ’s call to discipleship is the focus of these eight sessions.
- Discuss: “What is the bottom line about Christ’s call to us?”

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## TALK #10 CHANGING OUR WORLD

(20 minutes)

*What difference do I want to make in this world?*

Do not refer to the **GROW THROUGH STUDY** talk, which is not part of Face to Face.

### Outline

- People all around us need God's transforming love and vision for life in this world.
- The world is changed whenever we bring to bear Christ's love, truth, justice, and peace in our five fields of ministry: (1) ourselves; (2) our family, friends, and church; (3) where we live; (4) our city, state, and nation; (5) people of other languages and cultures.
- The world is changed whenever we help others realize what it means to follow Christ.
- Where have you experienced changes in the places you live?



## TALK #11 SANCTIFYING GRACE

(20 minutes)

*Ways I can grow in holiness and embody grace.*

Do not mention Group Reunion cards in this talk.

### Outline

- Recap: Prevenient grace involves God's courting us, wooing us into a relationship. Justifying grace involves God's moving us to the point of decision.
- Sanctifying grace pours into us divine energy for our spiritual growth!
- Understanding sanctifying grace is this simple: As we live in obedience to God's call and practice the means of grace, the Holy Spirit empowers us to love as Jesus loved and to mature in the likeness of Christ.
- We must not (1) get preoccupied with our growth in goodness but (2) focus upon our call to humble service to Christ in the world.
- Give examples of any of the above.

## TALK #12 BODY OF CHRIST

(20 minutes)

*Sharing with all members of the community  
in the ministry and mission of Christ.*

No changes to standard talk outline.

### Outline

- God has given gifts to every member of the body; we need to call forth and exercise these gifts.
- Our part comes in working together to build up the church, to form Christian communities that are alive and to show forth Christ's life and Spirit in definitive ways so that the world may experience more of God's love.
- In what ways are you aware of the body of Christ where you live?
  - People at worship (going to worship)
  - People performing acts of love and service
  - Any other kind of caring for others?
- Presenter gives additional examples.
- We are privileged to work together to build up the church.
- The true measure of the effectiveness of the body of Christ is its effect on "the least of these."
- At your tables, discuss specific ways that where you live or your church can become such a community.

## TALK #13 COPING IN TOUGH TIMES

(30 minutes)

*What do I have left, and how I am coping with my loss?*

(Given by a hospice worker or a team member who has lost a spouse; can be lay or clergy. Speaker need not have been through Emmaus or any Fourth Day movement. However, this speaker *will* open this talk with the “Prayer to the Holy Spirit.”)

### Outline

- **Change & Loss**
  - Change is constant and brings both losses and gains (even positive change).
  - Loss is universal.
  - Types of losses (for example: death, pets, moving, divorce of self or parents, job, estrangements)—our worth and value come from God—not from what we do.
  - Losses of aging include the loss of independence, physical abilities, changes in body/appearance, family and friends, home, privacy).
  - Gains of aging include new vocation or interest, time for relationships, wisdom).
  - Loss is painful and brings grief and adjustments.
  
- **Reactions & Coping**
  - Reactions can include trying to replace what was lost, bringing a variety of emotions.
  - We can anticipate and plan for some losses: retirement, advance directives, funeral arrangements, support systems.
  - Avoiding grief can get people stuck—recovery takes time.
  - When to get professional help—suicidal thoughts, depression, inability to function.



- Facing loss can lead to recovery and growth.
  - Tasks of grief: accept the reality of the loss, experience and express the pain and emotions of loss, adjust to an environment without loved one, reinvest in life.
  - Practices and people that can help with accepting and adjusting: tears, talking about it, journaling, support groups, goodbye letters, rituals, Stephen Ministers.
  - Caring for self during grief: rest, exercise, nourishment, support, small pleasures.
  - Caring for others—loving and encouraging others takes focus off our pain (smile, pray). God uses the wounded to bring healing to others.
- **Faith & Focus**
    - Losses can challenge our faith—the Why? question and the mystery of suffering—choosing to trust God even when we don’t understand.
    - Allowing God to bring good from our suffering—God redeems it.
    - Gaining meaning from life’s remainders—finding purpose after loss.
    - Paul found God’s grace in the midst of suffering. (See 2 Cor. 4:11-12, 16-18; Phil. 3:8; Rom. 8:18.)
    - Focus on Jesus—keep eyes on him and trust him.
    - Loss can produce maturity. (See Rom. 5:3-4.)
    - God serves as our comforter. (See 2 Cor. 1:3-5.)
    - We base our hope on scripture—precious promises and heaven to come. (See Isa. 43:2-3; John 3:15-16; 6:40; 11:25; 14:3; 1 Thess. 4:13, 16-18; Rev. 21:4).
    - Strength comes from relying on God. (See Isa. 41:10; Ps. 46:1.)
    - Claim God’s promises to remain focused and faithful, and walk with one another in tough times. God promises to be with us all the days of our lives.



## TALK #14 PERSEVERANCE IN THE NEXT DAY

(20 minutes)

*What will you do to persevere in grace?*

This talk combines the following two talks, with 10 minutes spent on each subject.

### PERSEVERANCE

#### Outline

- God calls us to involve ourselves in the struggle to bring God’s justice and peace to “the least of these” and to unhealthy systems in which we live.
- Describe Emmaus Group Reunion and tell of your personal experience.
- A key to perseverance comes through regular weekly attendance and commitment to share, support, and enter into accountability and guidance.

### NEXT DAY

Origin of the Next Day.

#### Outline

- We are sent out to be Christ’s apostles.
- There will be obstacles, but we can overcome them through contact with Christ and other Christians.
- Describe Emmaus community Gatherings, Group Reunions, other Emmaus involvements.
- Offer specific “local church opportunities” that provide support for the journey.
- We have shared eight wonderful sessions in grace. Now we are sent to live the rest of our lives as a Next Day in our continuing walk with Christ.

# TALK OUTLINE HANDOUTS



One-page outlines of the Talks are handed out at the start of each talk to assist the pilgrims in taking notes. They also serve as the Pilgrim's note paper.

*Permission is granted to reproduce the following pages for Face to Face participants.*



## **PRIORITY TALK**

Humans can set priorities.

The created order is remarkable because of three unique kingdoms: plants, animals, minerals.

Of all the kingdoms, only the top on the top level can handle a priority.

Definition of your priority.

How will you list your five or six top priorities?

PREVENIENT GRACE TALK

It is God’s nature to be infinitely creative, loving, and good.

God loves us and desires a relationship with us—even more than we desire a relationship with God.

Definition of prevenient grace—God’s love pursuing us, awakening us, and convincing us to come home.

Prevenient grace prepares us for the “moment of decision.”

The loving acts of others also communicate God’s love to us.

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## **PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS TALK**

The answer to the needs of the world is the salvation offered in Jesus Christ.

Definitions: a priest acts as God’s representative to persons in the world.

Attempts to define “world” usually lead to the language of grandiosity.

The church consists of people who have experienced God’s love and grace, who live in relationship with God, and share that relationship with others.

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## JUSTIFYING GRACE TALK

God loves us unconditionally as we are: “While we were yet sinners Christ died for us.”

Justifying grace gives us a new heart; enables us to be born again, to be born of the Spirit.

Of all the changes we may experience (or offer) a person, the greatest is spiritual conversion.

Acts of agape demonstrate God’s love for us through the prayer and sacrifice of others on our behalf.

**LIFE OF PIETY TALK**

Prayer is the language we use to communicate with God and to express our relationship with God.

The Scriptures provide us with knowledge about the mind, heart, and will of God.

We can nurture our relationship with God through the spiritual discipline of living in God’s presence.

The life of piety is not “pious-ity” but natural, manly/womanly, courageous, believable, and joyful.

MEANS OF GRACE TALK

The sacraments are those acts of worship, instituted by Christ, in which Christ is represented to us in such a way that we experience his presence anew in our lives.

All Christian traditions recognize Baptism and Holy Communion as sacraments.

Important spiritual practices.

Characteristics of a life of piety.

Other means of grace.



## **CHRISTIAN ACTION TALK**

This process begins when individual lives become Christ-centered.

We give our hands and feet to Christ (action).

We can help others know Christ by making friends.

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## **OBSTACLES TO GRACE TALK**

Becoming aware of and admitting our obstacles to grace is the first step to overcoming them.

We overcome all obstacles to our relationship with Christ and with our neighbor through spiritual guidance, daily prayer and repentance, and surrendering anew to God's direction in our lives.



## **DISCIPLESHIP TALK**

Discipleship means fully responding to the call of Christ with heart, head, hands and feet.

As disciples, walking with our Lord and growing in his likeness is our highest personal goal.

Our individual response to Christ's call to discipleship is what these sessions are all about.

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## CHANGING OUR WORLD TALK

People all around us need God’s transforming love and vision for life in this world.

The world is changed whenever we bring to bear Christ’s love, truth, justice, and peace in our five fields of ministry.

The world is changed whenever we help others realize what it means to follow Christ.

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## SANCTIFYING GRACE TALK

Recap: Prevenient grace involves God courting us, wooing us into a relationship.

Recap: Justifying grace involves God moving us to the point of decision.

Sanctifying grace pours into us divine energy for our spiritual growth.

As we live in obedience to God’s call and practice the means of grace, the Holy Spirit empowers us to love as Jesus loved, and to mature in the likeness of Christ.

We must not get preoccupied with our growth in goodness.

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## **BODY OF CHRIST TALK**

God has given gifts to every member of the Body; these gifts need to be called forth and exercised.

Our part is to work together to build up the church, to form living Christian communities, and to show forth Christ's life and Spirit in definitive ways.

We are privileged to work together to build up the church to be living Christian communities that show forth Christ's love.

The true measure of the effectiveness of the Body of Christ is its effect on "the least of these."



PERSEVERANCE IN THE NEXT DAY TALK

We are called to persevere in grace.

Emmaus Group Reunion.

A key to perseverance is regular weekly attendance at the Group Reunion meetings and commitment to share, support, and enter into accountability and guidance.

Next Day: the rest of your life.

There will be obstacles, but we can overcome them through contact with Christ and other Christians.

Emmaus Community Gatherings.



# PRAYER CHAPEL



The purpose of the Prayer Chapel is to provide a worshipful, reverent environment for each speaker to seek God’s blessing and guidance before each talk and to offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving afterward. Prayer Chapel servants remain in the prayer chapel praying for the will of the Holy Spirit to be manifested in each pilgrim and team member throughout the Encounter.

## PRIOR TO THE ENCOUNTER

- Recruit three other persons to assist you in the Prayer Chapel: two teams of two persons.
- Contact the Lay Director to determine special needs of any team member or pilgrim.
- Get a list of team members as soon as it is available to begin praying for them.
- Get a list of pilgrims as soon as it is available to begin praying for them.
- Get a list of the speakers and the talks they will be giving.
- Contact speakers prior to the Encounter and get a list of possible prayer partners.

- Contact the possible prayer partners, and invite them to come and pray with speaker.
- Send reminder letter/card to prayer partners that includes directions to the Encounter location, the location of the prayer chapel, the date/time of talk, and expected arrival time.
- Attend all the team meetings to become familiar with the team members and to gain an understanding of the talks and the needs of the speakers.
- Set up a way for the prayer chapel team to address prayer concerns during the meetings and leading up to the Encounter. (Secure e-mail addresses, home addresses, and phone numbers of the prayer team.) Let the team members know that you are available to them as a prayer partner.
- Set aside time to pray for all the concerns raised with the prayer chapel team.

### SET UP

- Obtain a CD player and worship music to play in the chapel.
- Obtain a candle for use during the talks.
- Place a supply of mints, hard candy, cough drops (regular and sugar free) ,and bottled water in the chapel.
- Place several boxes of tissue in the chapel as well as index cards for requests.
- Place a chart with NAME OF SPEAKER, NAME OF TALK, TIME OF TALK, and a place for prayer supporters to sign.
- Have a card for each speaker that supporters can sign. The card is given to the speaker after the talk.
- Ensure that the Speaker's Cross is in the chapel and does not go to the Conference room. (a bit of tape on the back will help identify this cross).
- Reserve one corner of the room for the Pilgrims' Cross.

## DURING THE ENCOUNTER

Be as unobtrusive and low-key as possible. You are a silent servant, and the pilgrims should not interact with you.

Prepare prayer chapel by setting up altar with candle, cross, Bible, chairs, kneeling area;

- Prepare prayer request basket/box for conference room and asks the Coach to check it regularly throughout weekend and bring requests to the chapel.
- Prays for speakers, prayer requests, team members, and Pilgrims.
- Keeps up with speaker hand cross and makes sure that speakers take cross with them from prayer chapel to conference room when they are speaking. A bit of tape on the prayer chapel cross, will distinguish it from the Conference Room Cross.
- BE IN PRAYER ALWAYS FOR THE PILGRIMS, TEAM, AND SUPPORTERS OF FACE TO FACE.

## BEFORE EACH SPEAKER TALKS

- Be in the chapel at least 30 minutes prior to the talk.
- Dim the lights play calm worship music.
- Greet each speaker's prayer partners as they arrive.
- Ask prayer partners to sign the log, offer them the opportunity to sign the speaker's card.
- As the speaker arrives, quietly welcome them, offer them water to drink. Survey appearance, buttons, zippers, collars, hair etc, help them to look their best.
- Do not start until the Spiritual Director arrives.
- Seat the speaker in a chair in front of the altar. Light the candle, reminding all present that it represents the Holy Spirit and his presence in the room and on the Encounter.
- Explain to the prayer partners that the Prayer Chapel team will start and end the prayers. The Speakers Cross is passed from one part-



ner to another to indicate their turn to pray. Explain that they may offer verbal or silent prayers for the speaker, and to pass the cross when they are finished.

- After the prayers are said, a Coach will come for the speaker, continue to pray as the talk is given.

### **AFTER EACH SPEAKER TALKS**

- Greet the speaker with joy.
- Seat the speaker back in the chair, and, using the same instructions for order of prayer, offer up prayers of thanksgiving for the service and testimony of the speaker, and their willingness to serve the Lord.
- As you will be the last to pray, you should have the Speakers Cross in your hand, so return it to the alter in preparation for the next speaker.
- Offer the speaker the card that all of the prayer partners have signed, and thank them for their service.
- A Coach will come to take the speaker back.

### **AFTER THE LAST TALK**

- Disassemble the prayer chapel.
- Return any items that have been borrowed.
- Clean the chapel.

### **PRAYING THE PRAYER VIGIL**

- Begin your vigil by asking God to clear your mind of all outside distractions. Place thoughts and spirit with the people and the event you are asking Go to bless. Be silent for a few seconds and begin to feel God’s presence with you. Pray as if you are talking to your best friend—you are! Ask for the Spirit’s blessing of the buildings,

grounds, and all things used to bring those present to an awareness of God.

- Pray for the Lay Director, if not by name, by duty. He or she must walk in God's spirit to address any task that might arise.
- Pray for the Coaches that they may have the courage to sustain the purity of the event and not allow personalities to keep them from fulfilling their promises to God.
- Pray that the Spiritual Director be an instrument of God's spirit.
- Pray for the Assistant Spiritual Directors in the same way.
- Pray for the speakers that they remember whom they represent, that they lay down self and glorify God.
- Pray for the talks, for the messages given and received, that all may hear according to need.
- Pray for the Musicians, that their music may bring God's message and soothe troubled souls.
- Pray for the pilgrims
  - The ones who cannot leave their thoughts behind.
  - The ones uneasy in the setting.
  - The ones who cannot sleep.
  - The ones looking for magic, not miracles.
  - The ones who are open and receiving. -
  - For all the conditions known to God.
- Pray for the Kitchen and Agape servants and all who minister in unrecognized ways.
- Pray for the fun and fellowship that will warm hearts and keep the focus on God.
- Pray for the Table Leaders that they do not tire. Pray for their renewed strength.
- Pray for all of the agape gifts, for the hands that made them, and for the blessing they bring.
- Pray for the special times, such as chapel, agape feasts, closing.

PRAYER CHAPEL

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- Pray for other Emmaus communities.
- Lastly, give it all to our Lord and friend, who sees and knows, asking for Jesus' blessing and presence with everyone connected to this Encounter—not only those mentioned but families of participants and leaders and for the change for the church and community.
- End by praising and thanking God for the opportunity given you to intercede on behalf of God's children.

Amen.