



**Luke 24**

*A Day of  
Church  
Renewal*

**What is the Walk to Emmaus?**

**Don Miller**



Mission:

Empowering Leaders through Emmaus to be the hands and feet of Christ

*“I continue to dream and pray about a revival of holiness in our day that moves forth in mission and creates authentic community in which each person can be unleashed through the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfill God’s creational intentions.”*

*- John Wesley*



## Luke 24

*13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognizing him ...*





## Luke 24

*... <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”*







## What is the Walk to Emmaus?

- A spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders
- A short course in Christianity, comprised of 15 talks by laity and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church
- Wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship, and daily Communion



## Where Did the Walk to Emmaus Originate?

- Adaptation of Roman Catholic “Cursillo” (Spain 1949)
  - Cursillo de Cristianidad means “little course in Christianity”
  - Program designed to empower persons to transform their living and working environments into Christian environments
  - Expanded to Episcopalians & Lutherans 1960s-70s
  - Upper Room of General Board of Discipleship adapted 1978
    - Further Refined 1981 and name changed to The Upper Room Walk to Emmaus



## What is the Aim of the Walk to Emmaus?

- To inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action – in their homes, churches, workplaces, and communities
  - 3-Day Course in Christianity moves members to new levels of openness and commitment as disciples
  - Reunion groups – regular meetings for accountability
  - Teams of servanthood
  - Local church involvement





## What Happens on an Emmaus Weekend?

- Three days filled with singing, learning, laughing, worshipping, reflecting, praying, and participating in small groups.
- Fifteen talks given by laity and clergy centered around the theme of God's grace and table group discussion
- Daily celebration of Holy Communion
- Experience God's grace through the prayers and acts of anonymous service
- Become equipped for new levels of grace-filled service and leadership



## Talk Topics

- Priorities
- Prevenient Grace
- Priesthood of All Believers
- Justifying Grace
- Life of Piety
- Growth Through Study
- Means of Grace
- Christian Action
- Obstacles to Grace
- Discipleship
- Changing Our World
- Sanctifying Grace
- Body of Christ
- Perseverance
- Fourth Day Commissioning



## What happens at the tables?

- Listen together to the talks
- Discussion of each talk (personal sharing is confidential)
- Preparation of a poster or skit summarizing the table discussion
- Presentation of talk summaries and posters/skits
- Laugh, cry, pray together



## Why are men and women on separate weekends?

- Focus is on the individual's spiritual life
- Gives married persons individual time to explore their relationship with God
- More open sharing
- Men often make spiritual connections with other men, and women with other women
- Some are single, or have spouses that are not on a walk
  - No one feels left out



## Who Should Go to Emmaus?

- Emmaus is open to members of any Christian denomination.

Emmaus is for the development of Christian leaders who:

- Are members of a local church
- Have a desire to strengthen their spiritual lives
- May have unanswered questions about their faith
- Understand that being a Christian involves responsibility
- Are willing to dedicate their everyday lives to God in an ongoing manner.



## What should I know before attending?

- Emmaus is for active church persons
- Emmaus is for people who want to grow spiritually
- Emmaus is mainstream in theological outlook
- Emmaus is for building faith and discipleship
- Emmaus is for fostering unity in Christ
- Emmaus is a concentrated 3-day course in Christianity





## What will be expected of me?

- Be yourself
- Come with openness
- Be present for the entire three days
- Leave your world behind for 72 hours (an emergency phone number will be provided)



## What Happens After the Emmaus Weekend?

- Participants are invited to have a closer walk with Christ for the rest of their lives.
  
- They are encouraged to:
  - Expand their spiritual life through worship, study, and active participation in their local church
  - Become more active disciples of Christ in service to the world
  - Encourage one another in accountable discipleship
  - Pursue opportunities for servant leadership



## How Can Emmaus Benefit Congregations?

- Stronger spiritual discipline
- Increased willingness to serve as teachers and leaders
- Deepened hunger for regular Holy Communion
- Increased participation in Bible Studies
- Increased faith sharing and witnessing to Jesus Christ
- Intensified eagerness for evangelism and mission
- Increased giving of time, talents, and resources



## Potential Pitfalls

- Walking to Emmaus and never leaving
- Making Emmaus their church
- Acting cliquish or elitist
- Talking about Emmaus as if it were secretive
- Viewing Emmaus as exclusive
- Attending Emmaus for the wrong reasons
- Failing to understand the potential of Emmaus



## How do I register for a weekend?

- Prayerfully consider whether Emmaus is right for you, and whether the specific weekend is the best fit
- Find a Sponsor
- Complete application and give to sponsor
- Registration fee \$235 – includes room, 8 meals, and weekend supplies
- Scholarships are available – **NO ONE WILL BE DENIED THE EXPERIENCE DUE TO COST!!!**



## What is the role of your sponsor?

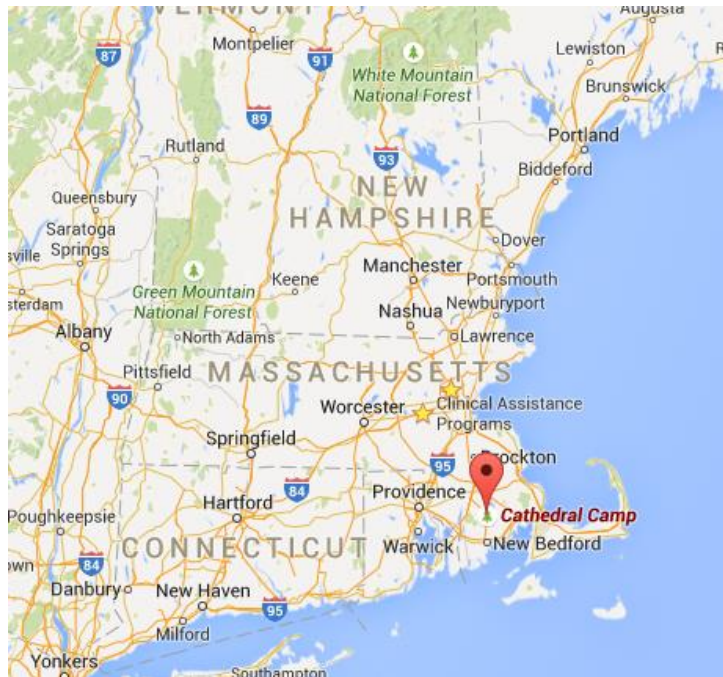
- Prayerfully consider whether Emmaus is right for you
- Complete a sponsor form to be sent with the application
- Bring you to and from the weekend
- Provide support to your family, etc. as needed during the weekend so you can leave the world behind
- Prayer and other support for you during the weekend





## When and Where are the Walks Held?

- The Southern New England Walks are typically held twice a year at Cathedral Camp in East Freetown, MA





When are the next weekends being held?

- Men's Walk #82: March 15-18, 2018
- Women's Walk #82: March 22-25, 2018
- Application Deadline: January 26, 2018
- Fourth Day Insights and Gathering: April 7, 2018
  
- Men's Walk #83: October 18-21, 2018
- Women's Walk #83: October 25-28, 2018
- Application Deadline: TBD
- Fourth Day Insights and Gathering: TBD



*“The Walk to Emmaus experience is a powerful antidote to Christian lethargy. It provides the spiritual nourishment that is propelling or sustaining a variety of self-giving Christian actions within our churches and the community.”*

*- Charles Frasier*

*Former Co-District Lay Leader, Central MA*



*“I must confess that the weekend changed my ministry in more ways than I can name! The 72 hours strengthened my relationship with Jesus, refueled my passion for ministry, and instilled in me a whole new appreciation and love for the laity of our various churches. I believe that all clergy should consider participating in the Walk to Emmaus.”*

*- Rev. Michele Ewers*

*Former Pastor of the Blackstone Valley UMC  
& present Pastor of the Cressey Road UMC*



Who can I contact for more information or for applications?

- Southern New England Emmaus Community
- Website: [www.sneemmaus.org](http://www.sneemmaus.org)
- Email: [sneemmaus@gmail.com](mailto:sneemmaus@gmail.com)
- Community Co-Lay Directors
  - Don & Debra Miller
  - 508-394-4189



Questions?

Comments?