

## Sharing Together

In small groups tell the story of your journey through *Emmaus*. Focus on the following questions:

- *What has been most significant and helpful for you?*
- *Where do you still need to grow?*

## Why share the faith?

In small groups discuss:

- *The reason why Christians should be willing to share their faith.*
- *The things which can often prevent us sharing our faith effectively.*
- *How you feel about the prospect of talking to someone you know about your belief.*
- *How much sharing faith is an individual exercise and how much the whole church is involved.*

Jot down your ideas and share them with the whole group.

## What do we share: the Good News of the kingdom of God

The Good News we share with others is that the future life of God's coming kingdom is breaking forth into the present. Jesus summarizes this Good News of the kingdom of God in his Sermon on the Mount. The beatitudes with which the Sermon on the Mount begins contain these eight great promises of blessing. Together they describe the character of Christ and the character of Christ's people.

---

### **The Beatitudes**

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5.3-10

### **The Beatitudes (paraphrased)**

“You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope.  
With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

“You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you.  
Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

“You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less.  
That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.

“You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God.  
He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

“You’re blessed when you care.  
At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

“You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right.  
Then you can see God in the outside world.

“You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight.  
That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

“You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution.  
The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

From *The Message*.

---

Each beatitude begins with good news of God’s grace. Each contains a surprising character trait not valued by the world. Each ends with a particular gift from God.

Each beatitude is for all of us. Some are principally about our attitude to ourselves or to God. Others are about our attitude to God’s world and about sharing in God’s mission today.

The Beatitudes are about the present and the future: the people we are and the people God is calling us to be and giving us grace to become.

In small groups discuss:

- *What strikes you most?*
- *What puzzles you most?*
- *What gives you most hope?*
- *What do the beatitudes leave you wanting to discover/do?*

## The end and the beginning: sharing the journey of faith

Look together at the story of the Emmaus road and the way in which the risen Jesus draws alongside two disciples who are moving in the wrong direction (Luke 24:13-35).

In the story there is:

- a time when Jesus draws alongside and listens;
- a time when Jesus teaches;
- a time when Jesus reveals himself in a new way.

Can you find these three elements in the story?

Can you find each of these elements in your own journey of faith?

What lessons can you draw from this story about how to share your own faith with others?

## How do we share our faith?

### Through prayer

The most effective way of drawing people to Christ is not through argument or persuasion or badgering but through praying for them. Pray regularly for your family and friends. One way to pray is to be part of a prayer cell (or prayer triplet). Three people agree to meet regularly. Each brings the names of three others to pray for. The group is praying continually for nine people to become Christians.

How will you pray regularly for your family and friends?

### Through our lifestyle

The second most effective witness is our lifestyle, especially the way we are with those who know us best—at home and at work. If our life does not reflect Jesus, or if the way we live is not consistent with his teaching, then anything we say will have a negative, not a positive effect. We are all ambassadors for Christ in the way we live. Jesus calls us to be servants to one another and to those around us.

*You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts (2 Corinthians 3:3).*

## Through what we say

If we are praying, and if our lifestyle is right, we may be given natural opportunities to share our faith. Often the best way to witness in words is to tell the story of how you became a Christian. Remember in talking to people that, for everyone, coming to faith is a journey and a process. Our task will not be to guide them the whole way to faith but to play a part in their journey, along with others, and as part of the whole church.

## Through pointing people to others

Often we may not feel we have the words, or that we are very good at explaining what we believe. But we can lend a book or a tape that has helped us; we can invite people to special events and services; we can give people some idea of where to look if they want to find out more.

## Prayer Tips

In praying for others, keep in mind the following three areas:

### Them

Ask God to:

- Pull them toward Himself
- Open their eyes to the emptiness of life without Him
- Help them see their need for forgiveness
- Remove the confusion they have about Him and the life He offers
- Help them grasp the meaning and importance of the cross of Christ
- Open the person's heart to God's love and truth

### You

Ask God to:

- Help you live a consistent and attractive Christian life
- Make you authentic and honest as you deal with life's ups and downs
- Give you wisdom in knowing how to approach the relationship
- Expand your knowledge so you will be ready to share the Gospel message
- Grant you appropriate boldness and courage
- Use you to help lead this person into a relationship with Christ and his church

### Us

Ask God to:

- Cause depth and trust to grow in the relationship
- Open doors for spiritual conversations
- Guide those conversations in pace, frequency, and content

Adapted from *Becoming a Contagious Christian: Participant's Guide*, 12.

## For reflection

Thank God for all you have received through this Emmaus Nurture course. Begin to pray regularly for your family and friends that their eyes may be opened to know the risen Christ.