

Emmaus Partners

“Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them;” (Luke 24:13–15)

Vision

To bless maturing Christians with vital, Christ-centered friendship by empowering them to form small groups of 2-4 people centered around discipleship and prayer.

Values

Jesus, Friendship, Word, Prayer,

Formation

Emmaus Partners can naturally form out of the Home Groups but don't have to. Because of the personal nature of forming relationships, the church leadership cannot match people up. Rather, the onus is on the maturing Christian to initiate forming his or her own Emmaus Group. We encourage an open mind when considering possible Emmaus partners as we have found that God sometimes uses unexpected people to build into our lives. Here's the process:

- 1) Link with 2-4 friends
- 2) Make “Gathering Plan” [frequency, location, end date (1yr?), curriculum]
- 3) Start meeting

Possible “Gathering Plans” for Emmaus Partners

Each group has the freedom to decide their unique gathering plan but every plan should include fellowship around the Word and prayer. Meetings should be at least once a month and should last approximately 1-1.5 hours. Some possible gathering plans:

- 1) Read a book of the Bible together and discuss (45min). Share requests and pray (30min).
- 2) Discuss one chapter of *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem at each meeting (30min). Share requests and pray (30min). (An abridged version of Grudem is available under the title *Bible Doctrine*)
- 3) Add Scripture memory component to #1 or #2 and test each other during the meeting (15min).
(see <http://www.opiso.org/2008/10/scripture-memory-the-flossing-of-the-spiritual-life/> for details)
- 4) Pick a book on a topic of importance and read a chapter before each meeting. Discuss and end with sharing and prayer. (Please make sure book has adequate biblical content).
- 5) Use the resources on the Opiso website to take a spiritual growth inventory together and go through a process of directed learning. <http://www.opiso.org/2009/09/project-feed-in-home-groups/>

Relationship to Home Group

Emmaus Partnerships do not replace Home Groups. If Home Groups cultivate “family” relationships within the body of Christ, the emphasis in Emmaus partnerships is on “brotherhood” and “sisterhood.” Ideally, a person would have both a “family” for weekly gathering and “brothers” or “sisters” with whom to gather alone on a less frequent basis for closer accountability and sharing. Some Home Groups may achieve Emmaus Partnerships by splitting up men and women for prayer and allowing ample time for accountability and sharing at the end of the Home Group meeting.