



Emmaus Road

Week 1 – Purpose and Journey

*Heavenly Father, we thank you for the opportunity to gather here tonight in your holy Name.
We ask your blessing upon our Emmaus Group and upon the time we will spend together.
Draw us closer to You through each other. Give us the ability to search our own
hearts and know ourselves ever more, so we might better know You.*

Emmaus (Greek: Ἐμμαούς, Latin: **Emmaus**, Hebrew: חממת Hammat, **meaning** "warm spring", Arabic: سلومع Imwas) was likely an ancient town located approximately 7 miles (11 km) northwest of present day Jerusalem.

Read Luke 24:13-35 out loud together.

Discuss: What are your initial thoughts and questions about this story?

Look at the text again.

Discuss: What leaps out at you?

“But where two or three are gathered in my name there I am in the midst of them.”

-Matthew 18:20

Discuss: What is the role of *community* in this story?

Discuss: How does this story relate to our own Emmaus groups?

Discuss: How does community both help and hinder our faith? Who helps and holds you back in your own life? (i.e. Parish Life, Roommates, Co-workers)



Read the excerpt below from Bishop Barron aloud together.

“The story opens with two people going the wrong way. In Luke’s Gospel, Jerusalem is the spiritual center of gravity: it is the locale of the Last Supper, the cross, the resurrection and the sending of the Spirit. It is the charged place where the drama of salvation unfolds. So in walking away from the capital city, these two erstwhile disciples of Jesus are going against the grain.”

Bishop Barron, *Walk with Sinners, Open the Book, Break the Bread*

Re-read: Luke 24:15-16

Discuss: Much like ourselves, the disciples find themselves in the presence of Christ, yet unaware of His presence. When does this most occur in your own life?

Read the excerpt below from Pope Benedict XVI aloud together.

“The location of Emmaus has not been identified with any certainty. There are different hypotheses, and this fact is not without its significance because it leaves us to think that in reality Emmaus represents every place: The road that leads there is the journey of every Christian, indeed, of every man. Along our roads the risen Jesus is our companion on the journey, to reignite in our hearts the warmth of faith and hope and the breaking of the bread of eternal life.”

Pope Benedict XVI, April 6, 2008

Discuss: What is your faith journey like at the moment?

Discuss: How do you identify with any of the stages of the Road to Emmaus? (Confusion, disappointment, discipleship, renewed zeal)

Read the excerpt below from Bishop Barron aloud together.

“This drama of the disciples of Emmaus is as a mirror of the situation of many Christians of our time. It seems that the hope of faith has failed. Faith itself enters into crisis because of negative experiences that make us feel like we are abandoned by the Lord. But this road to Emmaus on which we travel can become a way of purification and maturation of our believing in God.”

Pope Benedict XVI, April 6, 2008

Discuss: Where does this Emmaus Group fit into your faith journey?

Discuss: How do you hope to grow through this experience?

