

The Importance of the Table Leader and Assistant Table Leader

WHY AM I HERE, LORD?

- I'm here to praise God and to do God's holy work here on earth.
- I'm here to imitate Jesus Christ and to be a window through which the love and grace of Christ can be seen by the pilgrims on this Walk to Emmaus.
- I'm here to pray and make sacrifices for the entire team and pilgrims.
- I'm here to help establish a Christian community by bringing Jesus Christ to this team and pilgrims by accepting the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- I'm here to know the intent of the talks and to help each speaker accomplish the aim of his or her talk by guiding and directing discussion at the table.
- I'm here to display Christian discipleship—to demonstrate love and show my concern for others and accept other persons as individuals.
- I'm here to demonstrate leadership not domination. I do not seek glory for myself but act from loving concern. I'm here as a guide not a counselor. I'm here to listen and to ensure that every person at the table has opportunity to speak.
- I'm here so that when these three days are over, the pilgrims will be able to say of the team members, "I came looking for Christ and found Christ at my table."
- I'm here to ask humbly that God's will, not my will, be done.
- Christ, I'm here to submit my heart and soul to you so your love will grow in me and in each person at my table.
- In all situations I shall ask, "What would Jesus do?"

The Role of the Table Leader and Assistant Table Leader

- Help your table become a community
 - Develop friendships by getting to know each of the pilgrims at your table; spend time with them during meals and breaks.
 - Develop trust by remaining open, responsive, and non-judgmental; maintain the confidentiality of things shared at the table.
 - Be transparent and authentic; no word games, and no manipulation.
 - Never lie to a pilgrim; answer with a smile and the words “Don’t anticipate!”
 - Be a Christian leader, but don’t encourage dependence on you.
- Encourage and facilitate meaningful discussions after the talks
 - Be ready with a couple of thoughtful questions to help get things started; ask what struck the group as meaningful, or raised questions for them.
 - Monitor participation in the discussion (who talks most, who talks least, who interrupts, who dominates); carefully try to bring the quiet ones out.
 - Alternate between spontaneous vs. ‘around-the-table’ sharing to encourage more quiet members to participate, but don’t force anyone.
 - Summarize and tie together periodically to help stay on the subject.
- Guide and participate in the development of creative responses to talks
 - Participate, but don’t suggest the group poster or skit ideas; don’t dominate.
 - Don’t let the persons with certain gifts do it all; each person’s gifts are needed – involve everyone!
- Give the Holy Spirit space to work among and within the pilgrims
 - Don’t expect pilgrims to react to the Walk the way you think they should; this is NOT *your* Emmaus Walk – let the pilgrims discover for themselves.
 - Allow pilgrims a genuine response; affirm them for who and where they are in their faith journeys.
 - Don’t argue about any differences in theology; encourage them to discuss with their pastor(s), or ask the Spiritual Director for help.
 - If you are having difficulty with a situation at your table, or a pilgrim is having a problem, talk to the Lay Director or Spiritual Director, and/or ask for prayer.
 - Love, love, listen, listen.