

Emmaus 4th Day Gatherings

Fourth-Day Witness Guidelines

Thank You for agreeing to be a Fourth-Day Witness at our Gathering. This note is intended to give you some general guidelines for your presentation.

The intent of your discussion is to give witness to God's presence in your life and how it has affected you in your walk with the risen Lord. This may stem from an experience, a spiritual learning, a reflection on a stretch your spiritual journey, or a challenge to live more fully in holiness and service. The talk is not intended to be a sermon, teaching or exhortation. Nor is it a nostalgic remembering of one's Emmaus weekend. This witnessing is a first-person sharing that will cause others to live more fully in grace as disciples. While your talk should come from the heart, it should also be thought-out and well-prepared. Feel free to use props or other materials to support your talk. Your presentation should be no longer than 10-15 minutes.

Sometimes those gathered are given the opportunity to respond to your witness with their own life stories. After a moment of silent reflection, the leader of the Gathering may ask the participants to respond aloud in the large group or form smaller groups to share.

Your talk (and community responses) is sometimes followed by a response from the evening Spiritual Director in order to pull together the various thoughts and highlight further connections with the Gospel. This response is not a sermon or even a prepared discussion but a scriptural reflection on the general theme of your talk for the purpose of deepening the listeners' understanding of the connection between their lives and the story of God in scripture. The lay speaker may have shared the basic intent of your talk with the Spiritual Director ahead of time.