



## EIGHTH LAY TALK

# TALK #13 BODY OF CHRIST

### Overview of All Talks

One message is delivered during The Walk to Emmaus 72-hour experience; it is communicated throughout the music, meals, clergy meditations, attitudes and actions of the team members, and the talks. You have been selected to deliver one of the 15 talks. In reality, you will deliver 1/15 of the Emmaus talk—one message, fifteen presenters.

Prepare your talk using the outlines provided. In general, 2/3 of your presentation will come from the outlines; the remaining 1/3 will come from your original insights and personal experience.

The talks are sequenced in a defined order; each builds on the next to provide pilgrims with the complete message of Emmaus. Do not try to cover more than your assigned topic. The expanded outline intends to provide a solid understanding of the material from which your talk will be developed. The abbreviated outline helps you see the progression of the main points. *Neither outline is a script*; you will need to add personal examples to give life to the content and make it real to the hearers. Use visual aids to help convey the main points.

The Holy Spirit, as well as feedback from the team after your talk preview, will provide additional guidance for your unique presentation of this talk. Once you incorporate the suggestions offered after your preview, your presentation no longer belongs just to you but to the team God is forming to deliver the Emmaus message.

*This presentation is allotted a maximum of 20 to 25 minutes.* Please honor the time limit out of a spirit of cooperation, charity, good stewardship of time, and consideration for the hearers.

### Overview for Speaker

Remember that the whole intent of The Walk to Emmaus movement is to develop church leadership and strengthen the witness of the Christian community in word and deed. In the CHRISTIAN ACTION talk, pilgrims heard about sharing Christ with others in word and deed. In the DISCIPLESHIP talk, they heard about being a Christian leader. In the CHANGING OUR WORLD talk, pilgrims were challenged to make a plan for being a Christian influence in the everyday arenas of their lives. And now, in the BODY OF CHRIST talk, pilgrims are shown what it means to be the church in the world.

This talk aims to help pilgrims understand the nature of the church, some of its important characteristics, and the threefold mission. Illustrate each point with personal and positive examples of the church in mission. Your aim is to inspire pilgrims to participate fully in their congregations and cooperate with other members. Through your witness, leave pilgrims with an enhanced appreciation of the value of the church for every Christian who wants to grow spiritually and be a fruit-bearing disciple.

**The talk is scheduled for Sunday at 11:00 a.m.**

# Expanded Outline: BODY OF CHRIST

## **Begin by leading the Prayer to the Holy Spirit:**

*Please turn to page 48 in your Worshipbook and join me in the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.*

## **Opening Story (1-2 minutes)**

Choose a story or experience from your own life that is brief, personal, and directly related to the main point of this talk. If you cannot think of an appropriate introduction, consult with the Lay Director or a Spiritual Director for assistance. A good introduction will engage the hearts, minds, and attention of pilgrims and move them into the theme of this talk. For example, you might do the following:

**My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and the title of this talk is BODY OF CHRIST.**

## **I. What is the body of Christ?**

- A. When we became Christians, we became new persons (2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:14-16). We became part of a group of people with a common calling: to belong to Jesus Christ. No matter where we are or what we do or who we are, we are joined together like parts of a new body to reflect in the world the Christ in whose image we are created. This new body, comprised of all Christians, is known as the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-20). You and I and all Christians everywhere make up the working parts of that body, the church universal.
- B. The body of Christ is, however, more than the community of Christians everywhere. This term also describes the church fulfilling its mission in the world.
  1. The body of Christ is the entire community of the redeemed, incorporated into Christ. In their desire to grow in holiness, these persons radiate the gospel and Christian love all around them.
  2. The body of Christ is the community of disciples united by faith in Christ and response to Jesus' call to "Follow me," to be the church wherever they are. The body of Christ continues Christ's ministry in the world today.
  3. The body of Christ finds expression in various forms of church:
    - a) a local congregation
    - b) an ecumenical mission formed of different faith backgrounds
    - c) a family seeking to live in faith
    - d) wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name.

