

WHY IS EMMAUS SPECIAL?

There are now lots of different nurture courses available. That gives churches a choice so they can select what is right for them. Indeed some churches which have used a course many times need to have a change to preserve the sanity of their leaders!

What is special about Emmaus?

It tries to answer **three** questions.

1. How do we get a group of people together?

Some courses assume that a church has a group of people just waiting to be taught. For most churches it is not so simple. Who can we invite?...how can they best be approached?...what should we offer them? are all questions which need to be tackled before a course can start. The Emmaus *Contact* booklet is provided to help a church to think this through. It even provides a four week course for church leaders to help them to see the possibilities which are all around us.

2. What is the best way of helping people to make the Christian truth their own?

Emmaus believes that there needs to be teaching, but it should be teaching which respects the views of the members of the group and listens to them. The authors of the course listened to the adult education experts. Discussion should go alongside challenge and teaching is not all one way. The *Leading an Emmaus Group* booklet says that Jesus was the world's best adult educator and we must learn from him. He told stories and he used simple illustrations, yet he also put ideas into people's minds which were so deep that they needed a lifetime to work out.

3. What happens after the course?

Research shows that after a nurture course people often ask for:

- More help in how to pray
- More knowledge about the God they have just begun to worship
- Space to think about the way they lead their life

The Emmaus Growth material provide short (4-6 week) courses on these and many, many other subjects. It makes it easy for a group to follow the Emmaus nurture course, with material from the Emmaus Growth material.

To sum up:

EMMAUS BEGINS EARLIER, GOES DEEPER AND LASTS LONGER.

John Finney