



# Sponsorship

*Southwest Texas  
Conference  
Emmaus Community*



# Objectives

- After this training, you will be able to:
  - DEFINE WHAT IS SPONSORSHIP
  - DETERMINE WHOM TO SPONSOR
  - ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF SPONSORSHIP
  - ANSWER SOME OF THE BASIC QUESTIONS ABOUT SPONSORSHIP
  - SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE WALK TO EMMAUS Ω



# Introduction

- A SPONSOR IS ONE WHO TAKES RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANOTHER
- THE SUFFIX “-SHIP” REFERS TO THE SKILL INVOLVED IN THE ACTIVITY
- SPONSORSHIP IS THE SKILL OF TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANOTHER
- IT REQUIRES
  - A LOT OF DEEP KNEE BENDS (PRAYING FOR YOUR PILGRIM)
  - A LOT OF PHYSICAL ENERGY
  - MUCH TIME
  - EXTREME PERSEVERANCE FOR THE LONG HAUL
- THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP – LUKE 14:28-32
- SPONSORSHIP IS A DYNAMIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN YOU AND GOD Ω



Walk to  
**Emmaus**  
THE UPPER ROOM®

# What is Sponsorship?

- THE ACT OF YOUR REVISITING THE WALK TO EMMAUS EXPERIENCE WITH THE PERSON WHOM GOD HAS LAID ON YOUR HEART
- IT IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE WALK TO EMMAUS
- THE STRENGTH OF ANY EMMAUS COMMUNITY IS A DIRECT RESULT OF THAT COMMUNITY'S RECRUITING PRACTICES
- SHOULD COMMIT TO RECRUITING STRONG CHURCH LEADERS IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL CHURCH
- THE WALK TO EMMAUS IS NOT FOR EVERYONE
- BE CERTAIN THAT THE INDIVIDUAL YOU INVITE IS RIGHT FOR EMMAUS, AND THAT EMMAUS IS RIGHT FOR THAT INDIVIDUAL Ω



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# Scriptural Principles

- PRAYER

- THE FIRST STEP OF SPONSORSHIP
- COMMIT THE PROCESS TO GOD
- RELEASE TO GOD
  - OUR CONTROL
  - OUR DESIRES
  - OUR EXPECTATIONS
- ALLOW GOD TO WORK THROUGH US
- EMPTY OURSELVES OF SELF TO BE FILLED WITH
  - GOD'S INSTRUCTION
  - GOD'S TIMING
  - GOD'S PERSON FOR US TO SPONSOR Ω



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# Scriptural Principles

- OPENNESS TO GOD
  - ENABLES US TO BECOME GOD'S INSTRUMENTS IN FURTHERING DIVINE WILL THROUGH THE WALK TO EMMAUS
  - INCLUDES HAVING OUR EYES OPEN TO SEE GOD AT WORK
    - PSA 119:18
  - MEANS WE LISTEN
    - PSA 78:1, ISA 28:3, JER 11:7
    - MATT 13:9
  - ALLOWS US TO RECEIVE GOD'S INSTRUCTION
    - EVEN WHEN IT DOESN'T CONFORM TO OUR EXPECTATIONS (JER 42:6)
  - SENSITIZES US AS TO HOW GOD WANTS TO RENEW AND REVITALIZE THE CHURCH USING ALL THE ASPECTS OF THE EMMAUS EXPERIENCE



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# Scriptural Principles

- CALLING BY NAME
  - GOD CALLED PEOPLE BY NAME
    - NOAH, ABRAHAM, SAMUEL, ESTHER, AND OTHERS
  - JESUS CALLED INDIVIDUALS
    - TWELVE DISCIPLES BY NAME (MARK 1:16-20)
    - ZACCHAEUS (LUKE 19:1-10)
    - SAUL OF TARSUS ON ROAD TO DAMASCUS (ACTS 9:1-19)
  - DISCIPLES PRAYED FOR HELP IN REPLACING JUDAS ISCARIOT (ACTS 1:23-26)
  - NOWHERE IN THE GOSPELS DO WE SEE A GENERAL CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!



# Good Sponsorship

- IT IS “THE FIRST ACT OF AGAPE” BEFORE A WALK EVER BEGINS
- IT UNDER GIRDS THE WHOLE WEEKEND “WITH SACRIFICIAL LOVE ON BEHALF OF EACH PILGRIM”
- IT IS THE FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY, EFFECTIVE EMMAUS MOVEMENT, WHICH RESULTS IN THE RENEWAL OF THE CHURCH
- WISE SPONSORSHIP BUILDS UP THE BODY OF CHRIST



# Whom *Not* to Sponsor

- ANYONE WHO WOULD FIND THE WALK A DISCOMFORTING EXPERIENCE
  - BELIEFS ABOUT GOD, JESUS CHRIST, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT DIFFER FROM THE TRADITIONAL CHRISTIAN BELIEF OF THE HOLY TRINITY
  - THE WALK IS NOT A PLACE FOR THEOLOGICAL OR RELIGIOUS DEBATE
  - ANYONE FROM A CHRISTIAN GROUP THAT HAVE SPECIFIC DIETARY RESTRICTIONS AND SABBATH CELEBRATIONS THAT THE EMMAUS WEEKEND EXPERIENCE CANNOT PROVIDE
- ANYONE WHO IS NOT A MEMBER OF A CHURCH



# Whom *Not* to Sponsor

- Anyone currently involved in emotional distress
  - Death of a loved one
  - Divorce
  - Work downsizing, etc.
- Anyone with protracted health problems
  - Facing surgery or recovering from surgery
  - With conditions that won't allow them to sit for long periods of time



# Whom *Not* to Sponsor?

- ANYONE WHO IS A CHURCH-HOPPER
  - JOINS A CHURCH, FINDS SOMETHING WRONG, COMPLAINS, LEAVES
  - LIKE THE SEED SOWN ON ROCKY SOIL (MATT 13:20-21) – GROWS BUT DOES NOT HAVE A STRONG ROOT; IT WAVERS AND FALLS, NEVER PRODUCING FRUIT.
- ANYONE WHO IS A SOAPBOXER
  - USES ANY FORUM TO DOMINATE THE SITUATION
  - DOES NOT WANT TO HEAR OTHER OPINIONS
  - CHIDE THOSE WHO DON'T AGREE (EPH 5:6, COL 2:8)



# Whom *Not* to Sponsor?

- ANYONE WHO DIFFERS DOCTRINALLY FROM THE BASIC DOCTRINE ESPOUSED IN THE WALK TO EMMAUS
  - CONTROVERSY OVER DOCTRINE LEADS TO DIVISIVENESS
  - THE WALK IS DESIGNED TO BRING THE BODY OF CHRIST TOGETHER



## Whom to Sponsor?

- Anyone already on a pilgrimage
  - Willing to grow and move forward in their journey of faith
  - Living a life that is pleasing to God
  - Anyone that has a Christian fervor
  - Knows God can make and has made a difference in life
  - Evidence an excitement about being a Christian



# Whom to Sponsor?

- A CHURCH LEADER WHO IS AN AUTHENTICATOR
  - GIVES PRAYERFUL, CAREFUL, AND FAIR CONSIDERATION OF IDEAS
  - LISTENS MORE THAN THEY SPEAK (JAMES 1:19)
  - WELL RESPECTED AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP
  - WHEN GIVEN A JOB, DOES IT TO COMPLETION
  - PURSUES GOD'S CALLING



# Whom to Sponsor?

- A church leader who is a servant
  - Puts discipleship into action
  - Willingly does whatever is asked of them
  - Are the first to see a need and make an effort to fulfill it
  - Receive little recognition for their effort, and prefer it that way
  - Receive joy from serving God in the little ways



# Whom to Sponsor?

- Anyone in the church who is seeking a service role
  - Faithful attendees
    - Dependable with many talents and gifts
      - Searching for a place to serve
        - » Waiting to be asked to do something



# Responsibilities of the Sponsor

1. Spend concentrated time in prayer to discern whom God wants you to sponsor
  - Take a list of names with you in prayer
  - Leave them with God
  - Let God reveal a name
  - May take a long time before you hear God's response
  - Doesn't mean only one on the list will attend a walk – God's timing is of the utmost importance
  - It is not your responsibility for getting everyone you know on a Walk to Emmaus
    - You will be frustrated
    - Those not called to go on a Walk will be angry at you



# Responsibilities of the Sponsor

## 2. Continue to spend time in prayer

- Devote prayer time to your potential pilgrim and yourself
- Include requests:
  - For discernment as to the best time to discuss The Walk to Emmaus
  - Openness on the part of your prospective pilgrim
  - A humble spirit for you for the presentation
  - A hope that God would guide your discussion time



# Responsibilities of the Sponsor

3. Make an appointment to meet the potential pilgrim
  - Before the meeting, obtain a copy of *What is Emmaus?* for the potential pilgrim, and re-read your copy
  - Before leaving for the meeting, pray that God will give you calmness, assurance, and perseverance
  - Tell about your experience with The Walk and how it has helped you
  - Give them their copy of *What is Emmaus?*
  - Answer any and all questions
  - If you don't know the answer, write them down and get back to them



# Responsibilities of the Sponsor

## 4. Give your prospect an application

- Explain everything on the application
- Answer any question
- Request that they prayerfully consider the offer to attend
- Ask the prospect for a time to check back on their response
- While awaiting the response, pray for the prospect
- You will get one of three responses
  1. "I' m not interested"
  2. "Not now, but perhaps later"
  3. "I' m willing to attend"
- Being turned down is not cause for disappointment or discouragement - reminder of God' s time



# Responsibilities of the Sponsor

## 5. Obtain the application

- Make sure all information is complete, including the pilgrim's pastor's signature
- You fill in the sponsor's portion – include *anything* the Team members would need to know
- Submit the application with the appropriate fee
- Remind your pilgrim to reserve the dates for the 72-hour experience Ω



# Responsibilities of the Sponsor

## 6. Begin preparations to request personal agape letters

- May require some sleuthing on your part so your pilgrim doesn't know what you are doing (but don't lie!)
- Wait for confirmation letter from Registration
  - One letter to you
  - One letter to your pilgrim
- You will receive information and pre-printed agape request letter from the Lay Director of the walk about 5 weeks prior to the beginning date of the walk.
- Mail out requests immediately.
  - Remember: only 8-12 letters are given in the conference room, so it is not necessary to request letters from everyone who can write.



# Responsibilities of the Sponsor

## 7. Contact you pilgrim

- Make sure they have received their letter regarding the upcoming walk
- Offer guidance as what to pack and what not to pack
  - Remember no electronic devices
    - Cameras
    - Computers
    - Cell phones, etc
- Provide positive encouragement and reassurance
- Prepare them for a 72-hour encounter with Jesus Christ



# Responsibilities of the Sponsor

8. Take your pilgrim to The Walk site and assist with check in
  - ◆ Make sure that they eat before arriving at the retreat center
  - ◆ Don't allow them to arrive on their own
  - ◆ Check-in with registration table
  - ◆ Get them settled in the cabins
  - ◆ Return to the meet and greet room and remain with your pilgrim throughout, introducing them to others.
  - ◆ After send-off, attend sponsor's hour
  - ◆ Pray for your pilgrim
  - ◆ Place their cross on the large cross



# Responsibilities of the Sponsor

## 9. Spend as much time as possible in prayer for your pilgrim

- In addition, be part of the 72-hour prayer vigil
- When your pilgrim see your name, it provides a special lift Ω



# Responsibilities of the Sponsor

## 10. Check on your pilgrim's family

- If your pilgrim lives alone
  - May need to check on pets or plants
  - Pick up mail
  - Take out trash
- If your pilgrim is married
  - Offer to baby-sit so spouse can shop or have some time alone
- Do all these things in the spirit of cooperation and servanthood  $\Omega$



# Responsibilities of the Sponsor

## 11. Attend the Saturday candlelight service and closing

- Bring any last minute personal agape letters
- Another example of personal sacrifice to support your pilgrim
- Reinforces your commitment to your pilgrim
- Closing will encourage your pilgrim
- Provide transportation home
- Any “special” agape should be held until the trip home Ω



# Responsibilities of the Sponsor

12. Take the new member to the 4<sup>th</sup> day meeting and assist them in joining a reunion group

- You may have to step forward and become part of another reunion group
- May continue for several months until new group is established  $\Omega$



# Responsibilities of the Sponsor

## 13. Get the new member to gatherings and other Community events

- Introduce them to others in the Fourth Day Group Community (this is not the church gatherings)
- Help them learn about Emmaus
- Show them the many opportunities to serve
- You explain and model progressive servanthood
- Encourage them to be involved in their local church



# Responsibilities of the Sponsor

## 14. Teach them how to be a good sponsor

- Help them understand the responsibilities of good sponsorship
- Relay information carefully and in complete openness
- Avoid approaching sponsorship with an arrogant point of view (Mark 10:42-43)
- Review the materials on sponsorship
- Explain why Emmaus has a detailed and consistent approach to sponsorship



# The Equal Commitment Rule

- **Emmaus:**
  - Does not want to be a divisive force, especially in marriages
  - Is not intended for just married couples
  - Encourages the participation of both spouses in The Walk to Emmaus
- **So:**
  - Present to both husband and wife at the same time
  - If one partner does not choose to attend, suggest that they pray about the decision for 3 months
  - Pray
  - If still disinterested, sponsor the other, as long as the other agrees Ω



# The Equal Commitment Rule

- If one spouse does not participate in a church, and understands their spouses involvement, you need not wait the 3 month period
- The rule does not assure marital tranquility, but removes an area of potential conflict within the marriage
- Does not mean that a person cannot attend The Walk to Emmaus unless a spouse also attends
- Interpretation of this rule is not the responsibility of the sponsor or registrar, but of the board Ω



# Q & A About Sponsorship

- How many should I sponsor on a Walk?
  - Simple answer:
    - one (1)
  - Sponsoring a second person will compromise your ability to be a good sponsor
  - Count the cost of discipleship before you begin to sponsor (Luke 14:28-32)
  - Remember, it is not just a 72-hour weekend you are sponsoring, but through your pilgrim's 4<sup>th</sup> Days



## Q & A About Sponsorship

- Can I work on a team and sponsor someone on the same weekend?
  - Not easily, but sometimes unavoidable
  - You must have help from others to handle those responsibilities outside The Walk environment
  - Be sure that the pilgrim knows that you have a job to do on the weekend
  - Let the pilgrim know that you want them to experience the full weekend as if you are not there



# Q & A About Sponsorship

- How soon should I sponsor?
  - All of us were enthusiastic right after our Walks
  - But this enthusiasm far exceeds knowledge and effectiveness
  - Recommend about a year before sponsoring someone
  - Learn about the complete Emmaus movement and to participate in Emmaus functions
  - During this time, the sponsor should be training the new pilgrim in the total responsibility of sponsorship
  - If you can't wait, and you have followed all the steps, get an experienced member of the Community to help you with sponsorship



# Q & A About Sponsorship

- Can I sponsor someone to attend a Walk in another community?
  - Answer these questions:
    - Why do you want to do this? (close family member)
    - Will you be able to handle *all* the responsibilities of the sponsor? (before, during, and after the weekend)
  - Your answer in all likelihood would be **NO**
  - Thus the answer to the question is **NO**
  - However, there is a solution:
    - Get someone in the other community to cosponsor with you
    - Split the responsibilities; you could handle the pre-Walk details, and your cosponsor could handle the post-Walk activities



# Q & A About Sponsorship

- Why have separate weekends for men and women?
  - Single people and married people participate on the same weekend
    - Having a weekend without spouses allow both to participate equally
  - Same-gender groups encourage freer discussion without the restraints some might feel with spouses present



# Q & A About Sponsorship

- What about agape letters?
  - Goal is to have 8 to 12 letters from family members and close friends for the pilgrim
  - These letters
    - Should be positive and uplifting
    - Conveying a meaningful message from the writer to the pilgrim
    - Relate a special moment the two have shared
  - Work behind the scenes to get the letters
  - Agape letters come Sunday afternoon, the others will be put in their packets as a 4<sup>th</sup> day surprise



# Q & A About Sponsorship

- What about providing my pilgrim gifts and special surprises during the weekend?
  - This is not part of the Model
  - The message of The Walk is that God loves each person with the same love; God does not have favorites
  - A special gift will short-circuit this message
  - Sometimes results in problems with other pilgrims, who wonder why they didn't get such a gift
  - Any gifts or special surprises will be collected and returned to the sponsor
  - Sponsors can present these items as 4<sup>th</sup> day surprises at the conclusion of the weekend Ω



# Personal Contact Techniques

- **Individuals**

- Pray about whom to sponsor
- Wait for God's leading
- Be sure you are contacting Christians who belong to a church
- Use a personal setting to speak with people
- Affirm the person's walk with the Lord
- Be open in your discussions
- Testify to the changes in your life following your Walk experience
- Use simple terms and avoid Emmaus jargon
- Share that Emmaus is not a secret society



# Personal Contact Techniques

- Clergy
  - Be sensitive to the fact that clergy already have many demands on their time
  - Counsel with a clergy member of the Community prior to approaching clergy  $\Omega$



# Personal Contact Techniques

- **Group Contact**
  - Obtain permission to place informational brochures and registration forms in display areas within the church
  - List Emmaus events and activities on your church calendar, including the dates for The Walks
  - Invite persons personally to attend gatherings
  - Publish times and places of reunion groups
  - Acknowledge those who have attended a Walk and those who have participated on a team
  - Introduce Emmaus through intentional group meetings where supportive Emmaus pilgrims and clergy are present



DE COLORES!

