



# COUNSELLING & FOLLOW-UP USING EMMAUS BY JIM FLEMING

KENNETH KHONG • [KENNETH.KHONG@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KENNETH.KHONG@GMAIL.COM)

*'How can I be sure if I am saved?'*

*'I'm not sure or confident enough to share the gospel... (or my testimony either).'*

*'My friends asked me—Why is Jesus the only Way?—how do I answer them?'*

*'I have believed in Jesus, but I still have difficulty understanding the Bible...'*

*'If I believe the Bible, it makes me stupid... (as compared to being scientific & logical).'*

**H**ave you heard of or even had these questions yourself before? Well, many Emmaus courses are written to explain simply and give a reasonable response to this type of questions, along with support from God's Word. And of course, these courses and books also go from simple and short, to advanced and detailed too.

So, besides encouraging all of us to counsel and follow-up with others by introducing these useful and helpful tools from Emmaus, our brother Jim Fleming also gave us some teaching and several practical tips concerning this important subject.

I like how he started by reminding us that counselling is actually an essential part of friendship and relationships. It takes place during chats or meetings over coffee, lunch, family meals (especially for Christian parents to influence, encourage and educate their own children) etc. In other words, we give and receive counsel more often than we realise. And if so, it pays to be prepared by knowing what courses are available, and also to be familiar with the courses so we can be ready with the basic knowledge to counsel others.

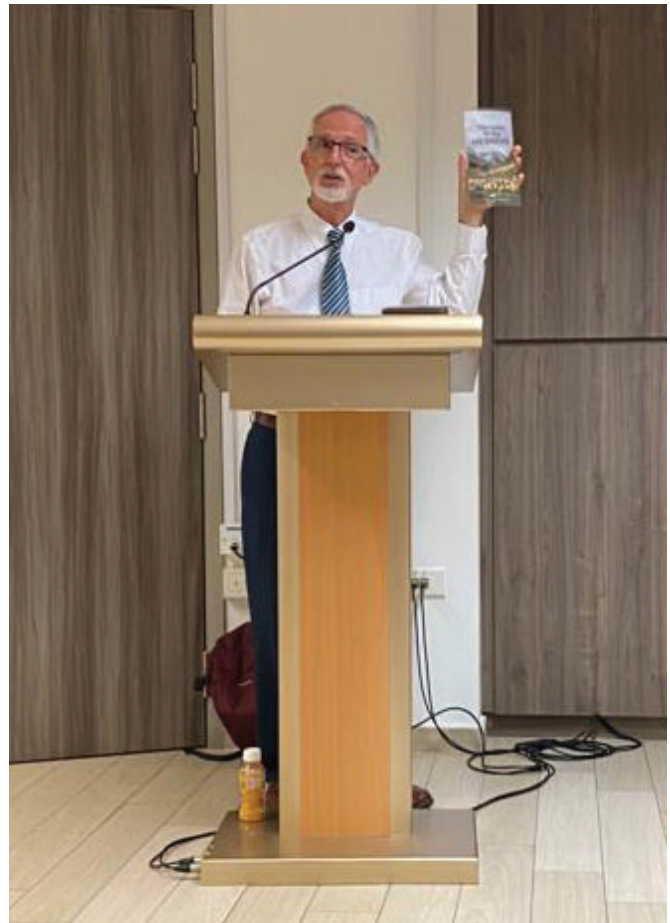
This helpful reminder also guides us to create opportunities for discussion, interaction and sharing faith in Jesus our risen Lord. For example, we can offer to buy lunch (with others) to discuss and read a simple course and to share the gospel. Other ideas may be hosting and sharing during birthdays, anniversaries or other special occasions.

Brother Jim then pointed us to the first mention of 'counsel' in the Bible. It is where Jethro, Moses' father-in-law was advising him to delegate and share the heavy responsibility of judging God's people—the Israelites who were fresh out of Egypt, and to other faithful men who feared God.

Exodus Chapter 18 verse 19 says *'Now listen to me: I shall give you counsel, and God be with you. You be the people's representative before God, and you bring the disputes to God..'*

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## **CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCUSSION, INTERACTION AND SHARING FAITH IN JESUS OUR RISEN LORD**



The Hebrew root word for 'counsel' is  $\text{יָאֵשׁ}$  (yā'ăš) and from one Hebrew dictionary<sup>1</sup>, to counsel is to 'tell someone what one should plan to do, implying value in the eyes of the subject soliciting the advice, with some elements of warning in the advice'. For your further study and reading, refer to the other places where this root word is used (Psa. 32:8; Psa. 83:4; Isa. 7:5).

Back to Exodus, when we look at the background of the counsel given here, it is concerning a practical, administrative matter related to God's instructions and the management of His people. When things are done justly by God's standards, it brings glory to God. May 'God be with us' when

we counsel others.

Jim then shared five basic attitudes to keep in mind when counselling others: Love, Honour, Faith,

1. **Direct them to God (our help is limited)**
2. **Pray with them**
3. **Listen much and speak less**
4. **Listen with sympathy**
5. **Ask them questions to clarify the background and situation**
6. **Apply Scripture — let them read the Bible verses for themselves**
7. **Give them hope (through God's promises) and homework — continue reading relevant parts from God's Word**
8. **Pray with them again (pray continually) and in some cases where things are really difficult, seek professional help! We can't solve everything!**

Compassion and Humility. This can be expressed in the following eight steps to guide us:

May God prepare us to share His truths, help others and continue to grow with Jesus!

Now, here's a summary recap of some courses which Jim shared:

### **Introductory/Gospel**

1. The Bible—What's in It for You?
2. The Source of Life (Gospel of John)
3. Good News for All (Romans)
4. The Story of the King
5. The Greatest Man Alive

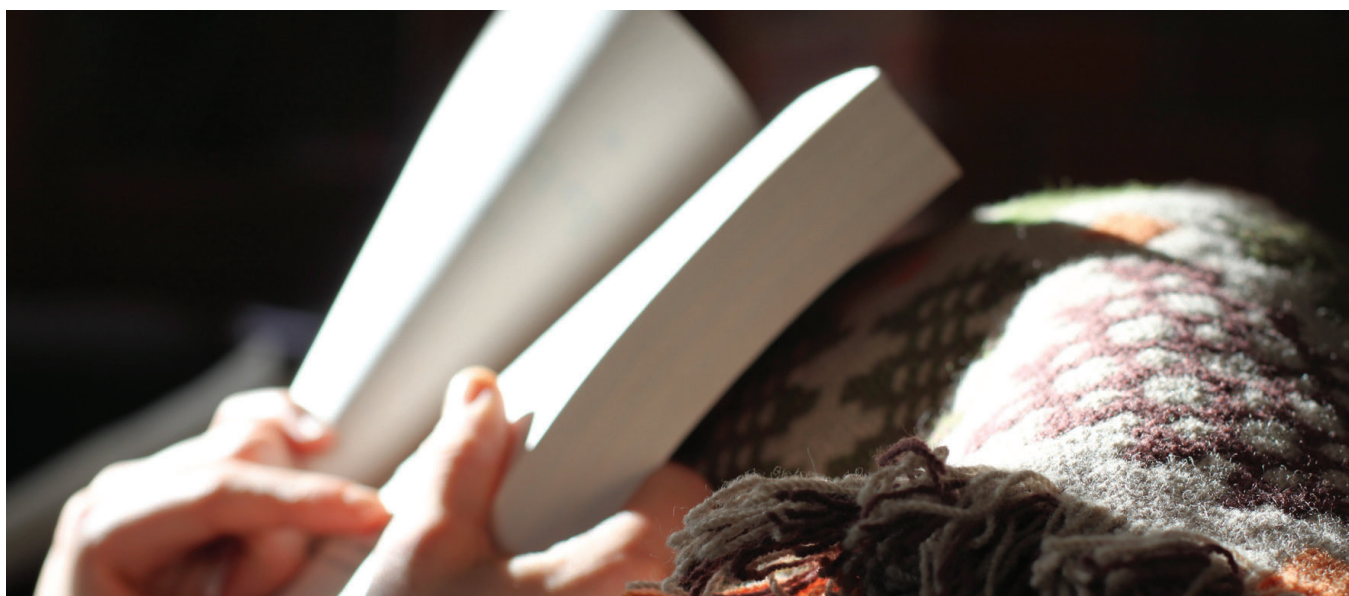
### **Christian Living**

1. Lessons for Christian Living
2. Dying to Self
3. Managing Anger God's Way
4. Forgiving and Being Forgiveness
5. Sense and Nonsense About Prayer

### **Bible Study and Advanced Topics**

1. Discovering Bible Study
2. Ready to Give an Answer
3. Securely Saved and Sure of It
4. The Holy Spirit at Work

*Note: These are just some examples of over 100 titles from Emmaus. For enquiries, please email: [way2emmaus@gmail.com](mailto:way2emmaus@gmail.com)*



<sup>1</sup>Swanson, James. Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Hebrew (Old Testament). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997.