**Leader Guide for SESSION 8: ACCOMPANIMENT & RELATIONAL MINISTRY**

*Overview:*

Accompaniment is becoming a popular word in church-circles today. This session will attempt to dig a bit deeper into exactly what this concept means, before providing practical tips for relational ministry.

*Session Outline:*

* The facilitator should welcome everyone, provide time for any necessary introductions, and lead a brief opening prayer. Next, he/she should read the overview (see above) or provide an overview of the session in his/her own words.
* Watch Segment 1: Defining Accompaniment (2:10)
	+ As a group, read the Emmaus account in Lk. 24:13-35.
	+ Invite your group to reflect personally and communally on the following: How does Jesus accompany the two men on the road to Emmaus?
* Watch Segment 2: The Art of Accompaniment (5:04)
	+ Invite your volunteers to reflect personally on the following questions:
		- Who has accompanied you?
		- How did he/she accompany you?
	+ As a group, share your answers to the questions listed above.
* Watch Segment 3: Initiating Accompaniment (5:10)
	+ Discuss the following with your group:
		- Of the dynamics of accompaniment that Matt discussed, which ones do you think will be easy for you? Why?
		- Which ones might be more difficult?
	+ Invite group members to partner up and role-play in a relational ministry setting.
* Takeaways and Closing Prayer
	+ The facilitator should invite participants to briefly share their biggest takeaway or question from the session. The facilitator should note these carefully, as they will provide fodder for one-on-one follow up.
	+ The facilitator should close the session with a prayer.