

## Advice on Table Manners

This advice is only advice. Prayerfully use your best judgment at the table, in your important ministry to the caterpillars. Remember that although you may have prepared and some of you have given talks it is within the table group that you will minister most effectively. Anyone can talk to a crowd, but only you can be who you are at the table. You were placed at that table by our Lord intentionally. It will be your sensitivity, experiences, and faith that make the difference in someone's life. Serve joyously in faith

The Chrysalis experience belongs to the caterpillars, all activities are undertaken for their best interests. "Servant" is the best descriptive term of our role as we serve the candidates. Remember it takes all three days to transform caterpillars to butterflies. There is a gradual buildup during the weekend. Do not anticipate activities. Wait for things like spontaneous prayer, Agape, foot washing, etc., to be introduced before you mention them.

Exercise self-control during the weekend, be yourself but don't let the excitement of the moment run away with you. Give true, deep responses and allow candidates to respond fully according to their need. Be careful not to cut them off in any way. When a caterpillar asks you a specific question, answer them honestly and directly. If they ask if you have been on a Walk to Emmaus or Chrysalis weekend before be honest. Under no circumstances lie to them, it will destroy your credibility for ministry.

Example is our most effective tool: take notes in all talks, respond promptly to directions given, be cheerfully receptive to all, show enthusiasm, demonstrate charity. Demonstrate love and care by cleaning up table periodically, sharpening pencils, etc, do what you can to make the caterpillars feel comfortable and relaxed. Start the weekend being reserved, especially on Thursday evening and Friday morning because the caterpillars are on their "the first" day and you are on your Fourth.

Listen and be present for each person and each encounter. Ask questions and show interest in their responses. If you talk all the time or state what you believe as facts the caterpillars will may not be open to your or able to trust you. Trust is the key to the candidates opening themselves to God's healing.

Remember table leadership belongs to the table parent or the youth table leader. Help them lead by subtle, gentle guidance. Do not dominate, encourage. Do not monopolize the table conversations. Ask leading or guiding questions to draw out the candidates participation. When the caterpillars begin to share, you listen. Do not compete with them to be heard. Be sure that each caterpillar at your table participates. Gently draw them into the conversation Be neither demanding nor detached.

Know the subject of each talk. If the speaker does not cover a point, and if it will enhance the discussion, cover those points. Do not preach, be one of the table group. If you are an obvious team member, the caterpillars may withdraw from you, or expect you to lead. Lead subtly by participation. Be careful to avoid expressing negative ideas. Always share a positive attitude, stress hope and faith. Do not degrade an idea or thing that works for another. If you attack another's position to build up your own, you have failed.

Do not be afraid of silence. Allow for all types of human reactions especially during chapel visits. Get bright colors into the posters. Summaries are meant to be serious, but posters are to be lively. Don't be afraid to participate in the poster, especially if you have no artistic talent! If one without talents participates joyfully, then a caterpillar without obvious talent will feel that its okay to participate also.

During your time to share, do not give a "mini-talk." By the same token late Saturday and Sunday it will be appropriate for you to share very personal experiences. Your short witness may be they example which allows a caterpillar to open themselves.

Pace yourself to the slowest person at the table. Always make sure they are included. Always look for and bring out the best in everyone. The caterpillars will have problems of preoccupation, wandering eyes and minds, fading in and out. You may have the same problem. Stay attentive and involved. Be aware of each person at your table and take appropriate action to draw wanderers back into the group. Watch for caterpillars which close themselves off from the table group, especially midway through the weekend.

Everyone has the tendency to be overwhelmed during a Chrysalis. If you are concerned, talk to the Director, Vice-Director, or a Spiritual Team Member. They will help you to confidentially assess the situation and offer suggestions. Remember to pray frequently each day for each caterpillar. Short specific prayers for their needs will be heard.

Be alert for illness, fatigue, or persistent discomfort among the caterpillars. If you think someone needs help bring it to the Director's, Vice-Director's, or a Cha's attention immediately.

Do not let anyone, team or caterpillar, to monopolize the table group activities. Be gentle and loving in your response in this difficult situation. It is your responsibility to see that no one is ignored. Do not surround "problem children." Know when to give people the space that they need to face internal issues.