



Just Walk Across the Room Participant's Guide
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Introduction



Shortly after Jesus' resurrection, he appeared to his disciples on a mountain in Galilee. The wide-eyed group sat with rapt attention as he delivered a few standing orders to be carried out until he returned. Remember what they were?

“Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you.”

MATTHEW 28:18–20A, MSG

Immediately after recognizing what's commonly referred to as the “Great Commission,” the next thought that crosses your mind (if you're like many Christians) is smothered with obligation . . . or worse yet, with guilt. *I know I should be accomplishing the Great Commission, but I can't seem to get past that first word . . . Go.*

We *go* all the time. We go to work, go home, go out to eat, go shopping, go to sporting events, go to bed. But something deep inside us knows that Jesus' “go” carries with it a very different connotation.

His “go” means our feet have to get unstuck from where they're currently planted. It means we have to agree to action. It means we have to accept a little risk and stick one foot in front of the other to engage with another human being . . . having no idea where it all will lead.

A daunting task for some, to say the least.

Friends, if your desire to “go” and reach out to the people around you is strong, but you find yourself perpetually stuck in “stay” mode,

this study is for you. Statistically, only 10 percent of *any* congregation would raise their hands if asked who has the formal gift of evangelism or who does any evangelizing on a regular basis. Which means there's a substantive number of believers sitting around you each weekend who are all locked up when it comes to pointing those outside the faith toward God.

Just Walk Across the Room: The Four-Week Experience is a campaign designed to raise the value of evangelism for everyone in your church. This means that at the end of four weeks' time, they will have a fresh understanding of what "evangelism" really means, as well as a dose of inspiration regarding how to get it done. In addition to having some unexpected fun this month, I think you'll come away from the experience anxious to "go" in ways you've never before dreamed.

One closing thought before you dive in: Jesus' mountaintop speech to the disciples that day didn't end with his memorable series of commands. Probably detecting a little nervous energy in the audience, he concluded things with a single promise (and aren't we all glad!):

"I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

MATTHEW 28:20B, MSG

As you work through the material over the coming weeks, remember that evangelism isn't something you have to "gear up" for. Fundamentally, evangelism is about submitting to God's agenda in a social situation, in a conversation, in your moment-by-moment life. And, like Matthew's gospel says, he will be with you every step of the way.

BILL HYBELS
Founding and Senior Pastor
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SESSION 1


The Single Greatest Gift



[Look to Jesus] Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human being, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

PHILIPPIANS 2:6–8

BEFORE YOU MEET

1. Read the introduction and chapters 1 and 2 in the *Just Walk Across the Room* hardcover book.
-  2. Complete the “Simple Steps We All Can Take” activity introduced during the weekend worship service (see page 10 for details). NOTE: If you are using this small group curriculum outside of the *Just Walk Across the Room* four-week campaign, simply disregard any item with a footprint symbol beside it.
3. Begin praying for one or two people for whom you want to take a “walk across the room” during this four-week experience. Beginning on page 69 of this participant’s guide, you’ll find space to log your prayer requests and the answers you receive.

Simple Steps We All Can Take



If you are a Christ-follower, consider how *you* wound up in the kingdom of God. Most likely, your story involves someone, somewhere who took a risk to walk across a room in order to point you toward faith. Maybe they extended a hand of friendship or engaged you in conversation. Regardless of the details, the end result was you submitting your life to God. If you still maintain contact with this person, then fill out and mail your “*God Used You to Help Point the Way*” note of gratitude to him or her today.

If you’re not in touch with this person any longer, you may instead choose to mail your card to someone who epitomizes what it means to be a walk-across-the-room person, actively living out their faith in their day-to-day lives.

BIG IDEA — *THE SINGLE GREATEST GIFT*

The single greatest gift Christ-followers can give to the people around them is an introduction to the God who created them, who loves them, and who has a purpose for their lives. Nothing beats it—not monetary gain, not job opportunities, not recognition or accolades. This is what evangelism is—constantly watching for ways to give that gift to someone living far from God.

SESSION ONE OVERVIEW

This week, as you view the story of Brian Anderson, a vice president with a development consulting firm in Chicago and former soccer coach for Bill Hybels' son, watch for:

- Why Christ's walk from heaven to earth is a model for us all
- How learning from the Master—Jesus Christ—can help you become a “walk-across-the-room” person starting today
- What it means to pay attention to and be led by spiritual promptings



VIDEO OPENER (2 MINUTES)

Play the session one video opener on the *Just Walk Across the Room Four-Week Experience* DVD.



ICEBREAKER (6 MINUTES)

Think of your favorite interest, hobby, or recreational activity. Who would you like to spend a day with in order to soak up their knowledge and expertise in this area? Why?

**VIDEO TEACHING** (15 MINUTES)

Play the session one teaching segment on the DVD. Use the space below for your notes.

Video Observations

4. Reflect on a time when you believe *you* helped point someone toward God. Perhaps you said to a friend, “I’ll pray for you,” or you invited a neighbor to a Christmas Eve service. How would you feel if you discovered that this person wound up putting their trust in Christ as a result of the spiritual impact you had on their life?

5. What does Luke 19:10 say about Jesus’ mission in coming to earth?

*“For the Son of Man came to _____
_____.”*

6. Jesus was crystal clear about how he was going to invest his days while he was here on earth. How might this reality have freed him up from the fears and insecurities we typically face when approaching the work of evangelism?

7. The Bible says that all Christ-followers can have the same confidence in their mission and access to the same power to fulfill it that Jesus had, because they have the Holy Spirit living inside of them. Take another look at the “Before You Meet” section of this week’s study. When you were asked to begin praying for one or two people for whom you might walk across a room, who came to mind?

In what ways would your mission in life be supported if you were to take steps toward them?

8. Near the beginning of this week's teaching video, you heard Bill Hybels mention that he's talked to many people who have been "freaked out" by evangelism at one time or another. He offered several explanations as to why this was the case. Have any of these ever been true for you? Check any that apply.
- I feel like I have to master a massive amount of apologetics information.
 - I think I have to have a different personality than God gave me.
 - I truly believe that evangelism is a formidable challenge I could never rise to.
9. In this week's video, Bill Hybels made the statement that *the single highest value in the evangelistic endeavor is to be attuned to and cooperative with the promptings of the Holy Spirit*. How might this reality relax you as you prepare to take a few steps toward people living far from God?

**VIDEO SUMMARY** (2 MINUTES)

Play the session one summary on the DVD.

- Christ-followers take walks across rooms because Jesus Christ—the Master of evangelism—took a walk for them.
- Taking walks in this manner is what all Christ-followers were born to do, reaching out a hand of compassion, choosing to say a kind word, hoping to bestow the great gift of grace on anyone and everyone they meet.
- The key to “success” in evangelism is walking when the Spirit says to walk, talking when the Spirit says to talk, and falling silent when the Spirit tells you that you’ve said enough. *This* is what it means to stay attuned to and cooperative with the movement of the Holy Spirit!

**GROUP STRIDES, PART B** (2 MINUTES)

What’s one thing you might do or say this week to take the first step toward one of the people you mentioned in response to the first part of question 7? Be prepared to share your response as your facilitator closes your discussion time in prayer.

**PRAYER POINTS** (2 MINUTES)

Wrap up your discussion time this week by sharing your action item from “Group Strides, Part B” above. (Don’t feel obligated to share the name of the person.) Ask God to open a door that you’ll be able to walk through, and that you will sense his promptings in fresh ways as you commit to staying attuned to his Spirit.



INDIVIDUAL STRIDES

Complete this section on your own this week.

1. In this week’s discussion, you reflected on the primary person who took a walk across a room for you. Now, spend a few moments thinking through all of the people along the way who helped point you toward faith in God. Write the names of each person and a word or two that describes the type of impact each person had. (For examples, between -10 and -8, you might write, “Josh—gave me book on faith, or between -1 and 0, you might write, “Sarah—prayed with me to receive Christ.”)

Names/Description of Actions They Took

Vibrant walk with Christ	10	_____

	5	_____

	1	_____

Accepted Christ	0	_____

	-1	_____

	-5	_____

Relied on self	-10	_____

2. How much of the time were “formulaic” approaches used in moving you along the spectrum?
- None of the time
 - Some of the time
 - Almost every step of the way
3. Take a look at the passages below, matching the way in which Christ pointed each person to faith with the names on the left.
- | | |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| ___ Nicodemus
(John 3:1–3) | A. Affirmed his master’s faith |
| ___ Saul (Acts 9:1–9) | B. Showed love by offering a hug |
| ___ Centurion’s servant
(Luke 7:1–10) | C. Caused him to be blind for three days |
| ___ Little children
(Mark 10:13–16) | D. Shot straight: “You must be born again!” |
4. The examples in question 3 reveal the fact that Christ himself used a variety of approaches when pointing people toward his Father. What does this tell you about the usefulness of letting the Spirit lead instead of forcing a stringent or predetermined formula on people in evangelistic situations?

On page 41 of *Just Walk Across the Room*, author Bill Hybels says that “many people begin their spiritual quest at a negative ten and that my role is to facilitate their movement to a negative eight. That’s it. Two points on the spectrum, and a result that is still in negative territory! It used to discourage me, but at some point I began to accept the fact that the role I am supposed to play is . . . well, the role I’m supposed to play.”

5. Keeping in mind your own journey toward faith, do you believe that your role in someone’s life might merely be to help him or her move *one tick* along the spectrum toward vibrancy and fullness of life in Christ?

Yes Maybe No

6. This week, ask God to show you ways that you may have made evangelism a mechanical or formulaic endeavor in the past. Ask him to give you clear direction regarding how to reach out to people in your sphere of influence. As you close out your time this week, jot down your response to the following question:

Why do you think it’s so easy to fall into a pattern of treating people as evangelistic projects instead of tending to them as unique treasures of God?