

# WALK TEN STEPS WITH THE LORD

## TEACHING AND STUDY OUTLINE

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of Walk Ten Steps With The Lord is to help bring the reader closer to God through Jesus Christ. It is intended to provide a step by step approach to lead you on a spiritual journey, guided by the Holy Spirit, to better know God, Jesus Christ and the Bible and how they might impact and transform your life. The reading and study of the book is intended to be the beginning, not the end, of a life long journey of challenge and growth where you will find peace, comfort, strength and joy as you walk more closely with the Lord.

What has caused you to pick this pick Walk Ten Steps With The Lord and begin to read it? Are there events in your life which have caused you to want to draw nearer to God? If so, what are they? Write them down, and go back and review them after you have completed the book to see if you view them differently?

Each reader's walk will be different and the steps you take and the pace at which you travel likely will be different than others. You will be traveling down a well-worn path taken by many, many others. Do not be afraid. If you have fears about drawing closer to God, write them down. As you move through the steps in the book, examine what happens to those fears. You also may consider sharing these fears with someone else who may have traveled down the path of faith before you. As you read the book, be open to new perspectives and to change. Pay attention to how God may be moving in your life and give God a chance to do his work.

Walk; don't run, through the book. Take the time to read and study it. Developing a meaningful relationship with God through Jesus Christ takes time. Reflect upon and pray about passages of Scripture and other portions of the book that have meaning to you. Spend time discerning what God may be saying to you. Pray and meditate about how and where the Lord may be leading you.

Below are a few additional passages other than those quoted in the book which speak to "walking" with the Lord which you may wish to read before you begin:

Genesis 17:1

Isaiah 2:1-3

Isaiah 33:15-16

Romans 8:1-5

Remember, Jesus chose twelve ordinary men to be his first disciples. He can chose and use you in the same way. All you have to do is to be willing to walk with and listen to Him.

# CHAPTER ONE

## I AM THE LORD

### **Scripture Verse: Exodus 2:20**

Does God exist? What are the ways we know God exists? Can you name times in your life when you felt His presence or knew He was at work?

What is your view of what He is like? How did you arrive at that view?

What are the implications to you of that belief?

- Surrendering control
- Stop trying to manage our lives and the lives of others
- Comfort – from pain, addiction, compulsion, anxiety and depression

What actions should you be taking as a result?

- Read the Bible
- Study other resources
- Prayer and Meditation
- Community with others/small groups
- Attend worship services

What other gods do we have in our life?

- Addiction – we are all likely addicted to something.
- Work
- Money
- Social acceptance, recognition, fame
- Success of our children
- Hobbies – Golf, Fishing, Running, Mountain Climbing

Are any of these really a slavery to us? How do they get between us and God?

Do you have time for God? If not, how can you make time?

Where do you think God is leading you at this time in your life?

# CHAPTER TWO

## THE SON

**Scripture Verse: Luke 1:26 – 38**

What does this passage say happened at the “First Christmas”?

What does Christmas mean to you?

What two miracles took place?

- Incarnation of Mary
- Birth of Jesus – John 1:14: “The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”
- The Wise Men. Found Jesus. Brought remarkable and valuable gifts. Were warned in a dream not to return to Herod.

Why God did do this?

- So we could know God. John 1:18. Read John 14: 1-14. John 14:7: “If you know me, you will know my Father also.”
- He was the perfect sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 2:2, Romans 3: 21-26.

What does this mean for us?

- Jesus is the source of truth, guidance and direction from God, as to how to live. God’s truths are revealed in the Bible.
- Through God’s grace, Jesus, who was wholly innocent and without sin, died for us as the perfect sacrifice. There is nothing we have to do to win receive salvation other than believe that Jesus was who he said he was.

Who did Jesus say that he was? See page 26. He said he was the bread of life, living water, the vine, and the way the truth and the life. He was much more than just a great teacher and prophet.

The evidence of who he was in his miracles. The Gospels are replete with accounts of the miracles. See page 30. The virgin birth, his many miracles, and his resurrection are all consistent. Read John 14:11.

All of the disciples, except John (Judas committed suicide after betraying Jesus), as well as Paul, John the Baptist and many other were martyred for their faith in Jesus. They would not have died for a lie. As Chuck Colson, observed, all Richard Nixon’s aides recanted and turned on him. There was not a single recantation among the disciples, and look at how the Christian Church has grown from that humble beginning. We must deal with the implication of these facts - either Jesus spoke the truth about himself and the accounts of his miracle are true, or he was a great con man and the Bible is fiction.

# CHAPTER THREE

## COME

### **Scripture Verse: Mathew 11: 25-28**

What burdens are you carrying that you can bring to Jesus?

- Marital and Family
- Financial and Business
- Addiction
- Depression, Anxiety and Fear
- Exhaustion, Weariness
- Offensives to others for which you need to be forgiven

How do we find rest for our bodies?

How do we find rest for our minds?

What about our souls, which are often neglected? Jesus says just come to Him, and he will give us rest. How do we do that?

- Reading Scripture
- Prayer
- Meditation
- Community and Worship

Most importantly, Jesus says just turn it over to him.

What are some of the events in our life which might cause us to turn to Jesus?

What are obstacles that keep us from coming to Jesus?

- Time
- What other people think
- Fear of the consequences
- Culture and upbringing
- Unbelief

Jesus works like a yoke. What is a yoke? How does it work?

Jesus does not remove the burden, but helps you carry it. See also John 16:33.

What changes do you need to make in your life to allow Jesus to come into your life and help you carrying your burdens?

# CHAPTER FOUR

## BE TRANSFORMED

### **Scripture Verse: Romans 12:2**

If at this point you have received Christ into your life, what looks different to you?

Do you see a difference between faith in God and religion or a belief system? If so, explain.

Make a list of the things in your life you believe you need to change in order to have a closer and stronger relationship with God, which could include:

- Relationships
- Worldly pressures and commitments
- Financial Priorities

What steps can you take in your life to strengthen your faith in God and renew your mind?

- Join a small group or Bible Study
- Go to a retreat
- Meet with someone whom you respect and know believes in Jesus Christ who may be able to help guide you on your journey
- Set aside a time each to read Scripture and pray
- Listen to teachings or sermons while you are driving, exercising or working around the house.

If you are having trouble moving forward, pick what you believe you need to do first and do it. Be sure it is something achievable. The Lord will help you from there.

What is your “best time” each day? Are you willing to give part (or all) of that to God? What is one thing you could give up each day in order to make time for God?

Scriptures verses that may help you in working through Step Four:

John 1:1-5

John 8:31-32

Mathew 6:25-34

# CHAPTER FIVE

## GIVE UP CONTROL

### **Scripture Verse: Matthew 16:25-26**

What do you believe Jesus means when he says that those who want to save their life will lose it?

What does society and popular culture tell us we are to do with our life?

Make a list of the things that control your life.

Make a list of the things in life that you believe you need to control.

Which of the areas of your life do you believe you can let go of and turn over to God?

- Which ones can you turn over right now?
- Which will take some time? What steps do you believe you need to take to begin to turn these areas over to God?

You do not have to do it alone (i.e. control it yourself). Many have found it helpful to talk with and confess to another person the areas of their life where they need to turn control over to God. Is there someone with whom you could meet and talk who could help you with this process? If so, contact them and ask them to meet with you.

Remember in this process that you can never do enough good works to earn the love of God. Christ has done it all for us at the Cross. Through the grace of God, Christ, as God's only son was the perfect sacrifice for us and for our sins. There is nothing else we need to do. Reflect upon how knowing this helps you give up control of certain areas of your life.

# CHAPTER SIX

## ABIDE

**Scripture Verse: John 15:1-12**

Make a list of the sources of spiritual nourishment which bring you closer to God?

What do you believe you need to add to your list? What areas do you need to expand upon or spend more time on?

What areas of your life are “withered branches” and need to be discarded and thrown into the fire so that you may draw closer to God? What items generally may we all need to discard from our lives to bring us closer to God?

What do you see as the fruit of your abiding in Jesus Christ? Do you see ways that fruit can be made more abundant? What fruits are you holding onto which you should share with God and with others? Examples could include time, money, gifts, talents and knowledge.

What events of “pruning” have taken place in your life? How did you respond and how were you changed by such an event? Did your response draw you closer to or drive you further from God? Examples of pruning or life-changing events could include the following:

- Illness
- Death of a friend or loved one
- Loss of or change in employment
- Financial difficulties
- Marital Separation or Divorce

Do you see ways in which you help others in the pruning events of their lives? Can you see ways in which knowing the Lord could help those in their time of distress and need?



# CHAPTER SEVEN

## CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

**Scripture Verse: Galatians 2:19-20**

What is your image of yourself? Write it out and examine it.

How much of your image is your true self, and how much of it is there for the benefit of what other people think of you? To what extent are your actions and image driven by what other people think? How much of it do you think God cares about?

What portions of your personal image do you need to discard in order to make more room for the Lord? What steps do you need to take in order to make more room for God?

What talents should you be using for the glory of God?

To what extent does your ego hinder your relationship with others?

List examples in which someone has exalted themselves only to be humbled.

What are some ways in which you could practice humility in your own life?

Consider what it would mean to you to say you want to be an obedient disciple of Christ? What would that look like to you?

As discussed in the outline to Chapter Six Is there someone you know well enough to discuss with them some or all of these issues? If so, schedule a time to meet with them. An honest assessment from someone whom you respect can be very helpful in the process.

# CHAPTER EIGHT

## LOVE

**Scripture Verse: Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-31**

After reviewing question 1 in the Guiding Questions at the end of Chapter 8 in the book, consider how much of love you receive and give is conditional. What sources of love do you need to move toward or away from in order to grow closer to and strengthen your faith in God?

What is more important to you – loving God or loving others? Why?

Do you see God as a loving God? If so, why? If not, why not?

What prevents or hinders you from showing unconditional love to others?

What have been the sources of unconditional love in your life? What has been their effect on you?

What is your definition of love? To what extent does accountability, discipline and setting boundaries need to be a part of the process of loving others? For example, do you allow an alcoholic to have another drink, or do you take him or her to an AA meeting?

Is there someone you love you need to confront about a difficult circumstance in their life?

Is there someone you need to forgive, so that you can love them or better love yourself? How do you think you should go about that process of forgiving?

What do you believe is the greatest gift you can give someone you love?

# CHAPTER NINE

## MAKE DISCIPLES

**Scripture Verse: Matthew 28: 19-20**

What is your faith story? Be prepared to share with others your own story of how God has been and is at work in your life. Think through it and write it out so you will be prepared to share it with others if asked.

In addition to developing your story, be prepared for opportunities to share the Gospel with others who may be in need or seeking answers to difficult questions. Learn verses of Scripture which you may be able to use in particular situations. This is a sensitive and delicate process, so you want to be prepared to meet people where they are in their faith journey.

Be sure to work through Question 1 of the Guiding Questions. List, consider and pray about the obstacles (fears, excuses and concerns) which prevent you from sharing your faith with others. What steps do you need to take to overcome these obstacles? What do you need to sacrifice in order to become comfortable sharing your faith with others?

Which of your gifts do you believe will help you the most in helping others to come to know Jesus Christ?

Can you think of someone whose life could be transformed by coming to know Jesus Christ? Are you willing to share your faith with that person? If so, pray about how you would do that. If not, what is standing in your way?

Additional Scripture verses to study:

Luke 14: 15-24

Luke 9: 57-62

Luke 8: 4-18 or Mark 4:1-20

# CHAPTER TEN

## ETERNAL LIFE

**Scripture Verse: Matthew 6:19-21**

What is your view of heaven? Write out a description of it.

What is your view of the alternative to heaven? Write out a description of it.

What is the basis of these descriptions?

What would “heaven on earth” look like to you?

How do you believe God determines who gets into heaven?

- Do you believe it is based on good works?
- Do you believe it is based on how kind and loving you are?
- Do you believe it is based on how much you give away?

Read Matthew 19: 16-30. What does this passage say about who attains eternal life? Can a wealthy person attain eternal life? If so, how?

If you knew you had an absolute guaranty of eternal life with God, how would it change your actions and behavior in this world?

Is there anything in your life you cannot let go of which may stand in your way to attaining heaven?

Describe what has been a personal crucifixion and resurrection in your life?

How has that event or series of events transformed you? Did it bring you closer to God?

Additional Scripture passages to read and consider:

Psalms 19:11

John 2:25

Psalms 103:11

1 John 5:13

Psalms 119:89

1 John 5:20

Mark 10:17-22

John 3:11-15

John 12:25

John 17:1-5

# NOTES