

"WALK"

Lesson plan for group leaders for use prior to Winterfest 2016

APPROACH:

Older folks might remember the song, "Walk Like an Egyptian" by the American pop rock band, "The Bangles." The song was *Billboard* magazine's number 1 single of 1987. It was a catchy tune that playfully encouraged people to walk like an Egyptian. You can see the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cv6tuzHUuuk>

Sometimes it's just **fun** to walk like an Egyptian.

Sometimes, however, it's **necessary** to have someone show and tell you how to really walk.

To illustrate, let's go for A Walk In the Dark.....

Blindfold all participating students and line them up one behind the other. Lead them out to a location away from your classroom or meeting place. Place adult leaders around the perimeter to keep anyone from falling or tripping over something that would hurt them. The objective is to have everyone separate and find their way back to a designated spot. (There will be many different emotions felt by the individuals in the group) After a few minutes, have the students pair up and instruct one person to wear the blind fold and the other person be their guide. The guide must direct the person back to the destination by speaking to them and giving them direction. (No touching). The emotions and feelings of being guided while still not being able to see will be quite different.

Have the group share in small groups the feelings they experienced. Hopefully they will be able to make the association that it's far better to walk in faith *with* God than to walk blindly *without* Him.

Learning how to walk is a process that can be exciting, fun, dangerous and even discouraging at times. Ask the students this question: "If you are the one teaching a child how to walk, what are some helpful hints to keep in mind?" [Possible answers: 1) Balance is a key 2) You don't have to be in a hurry 3) Provide a safe, level space where they can learn. 4) Remove obstacles from their path that would trip them up or hurt them if they fell on it.]

It is a blast to see children as they learn how to walk.

Watch the time-lapse video (1:22) of a one year-old girl named Lucy as she learns to walk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLq3kV55ESw>

- Ask: 1) What feelings did you experience as you saw Lucy learn how to walk?
2) What are some lessons we can learn from Lucy as we learn how to walk like Jesus?

Isaiah 30:21 (NIV) "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Isaiah 30:21 (ESV) "And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

Colossians 1:9-10 (ESV) "And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Key Verses:

It is made clear throughout the New Testament that our place in Christ is secure. Our standing before God is made possible because of what Jesus has done for us. We are in the position we're in because of Jesus Christ and because His righteousness has been granted (2 Corinthians 5:21) to us. In Christ, we are made perfect and right. Because of Jesus, we can be in relationship with God and enjoy His unconditional and unlimited love forever.

But on the other hand, the New Testament commands Christ-followers to develop our "walk", to "grow" and to "work out our own salvation"

1 Peter 2:2 (NIV) "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation."

2 Peter 3:18 (NIV) "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Philippians 2:12 (NIV) "Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling"

So, Jesus has done His part. He has offered us the greatest gift ever. Will we accept his gift, open it and make the most of it?

Our place, our position, our identity in Christ is an incredible gift that God has given to us. What we make of those is our gift back to God.

The term "walk" indicates what the Christian's life is all about. It's the focus, the direction, the life-theme for a Christ-follower.

May we like the Psalmist say, "Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth" (Psalm 86:11)

BIBLE DISCOVERY

Divide your students into groups. Distribute one of the handouts entitled HOW CHRIST FOLLOWERS SHOULD WALK to half of your groups. Then distribute one of the handouts entitled HOW CHRIST FOLLOWERS SHOULD NOT WALK to the other half of your groups. One sheet per group. Each student doesn't need his/her own sheet. Assign one of the following verses to each group. Half of your groups should have verses describing HOW CHRIST FOLLOWERS SHOULD WALK. The other half should have verses describing HOW CHRIST FOLLOWERS SHOULD NOT WALK. Instruct the groups to read their verse aloud several times, determining how that verse makes the case for how to walk or how not to walk in Christ. They should write their response on the handout (inside the footprint). One at a time, each group should walk to the front of the class and tape their handout to a whiteboard or wall (prepared ahead of time, of course) for all to see. Then, they present and explain their findings to the class.

The verses below describe how Christ followers SHOULD WALK.

Romans 6:4 (ESV) "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might **walk** in newness of life."

Romans 8:3-4 (ESV) "By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he [God] condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who WALK not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV) "for we WALK by faith, not by sight"

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV) "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Ephesians 5:2 (ESV) "And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

Ephesians 5:8 (ESV) "for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."

2 John 4 (ESV) "I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father."

2 John 6 (ESV) And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

These verses below describe how Christ followers SHOULD NOT WALK.

Romans 8:3-4 (ESV) "By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he [God] condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who WALK not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:3 (ESV) "for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?"

2 Corinthians 4:2 (ESV) "But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word"

2 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV) "for we WALK by faith, not by sight"

Ephesians 4:17(ESV) "Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds."

Galatians 5:16 (ESV) "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."

You don't have to be a believer for long before you learn that being a Christian and living like one are often two different things. Walking like Jesus is not an easy thing to do. Like the Apostle Paul in Romans 7, we find that we want to do the right thing but often end up doing the very thing we don't want to do.

As we mentioned earlier, Scripture on the one hand addresses the *position* of Christ-followers as perfect, forgiven, and the righteous beneficiary of "every spiritual blessing" in Christ. On the other hand, we are people who *experience* in our daily lives a shortcoming of perfection and righteousness.

The benefits of sanctification depend not only on Jesus Christ and His work, but also upon the spiritual cooperation of the believer. We must have a deep desire and learn how to utilize these benefits. The provision has been made by Jesus Christ so that His people may experience life abundantly. The Holy Spirit has been sent to teach and anoint the believer. But it is clear from Scripture that our cooperation is vitally important.

CONCLUSION

At the end of the session, display this verse on a screen or whiteboard for all to see:

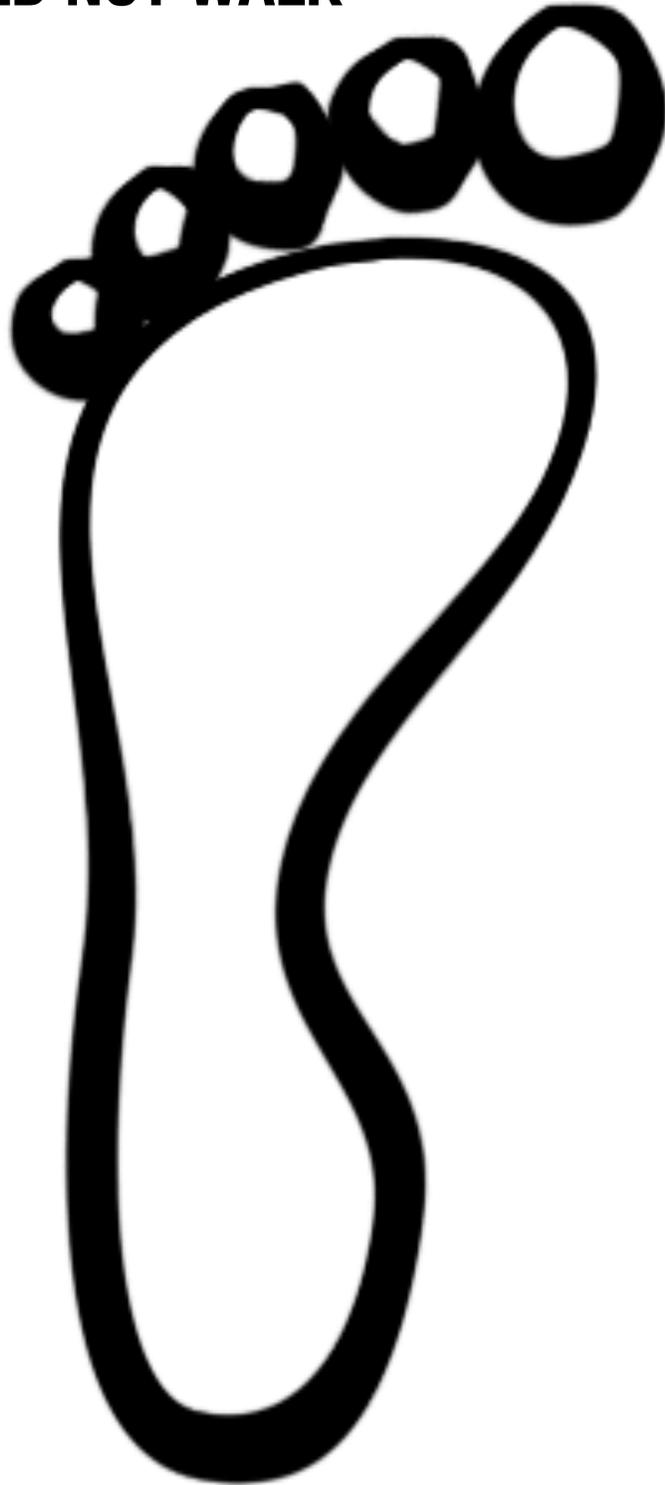
"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." **Isaiah 30:21** (NIV)

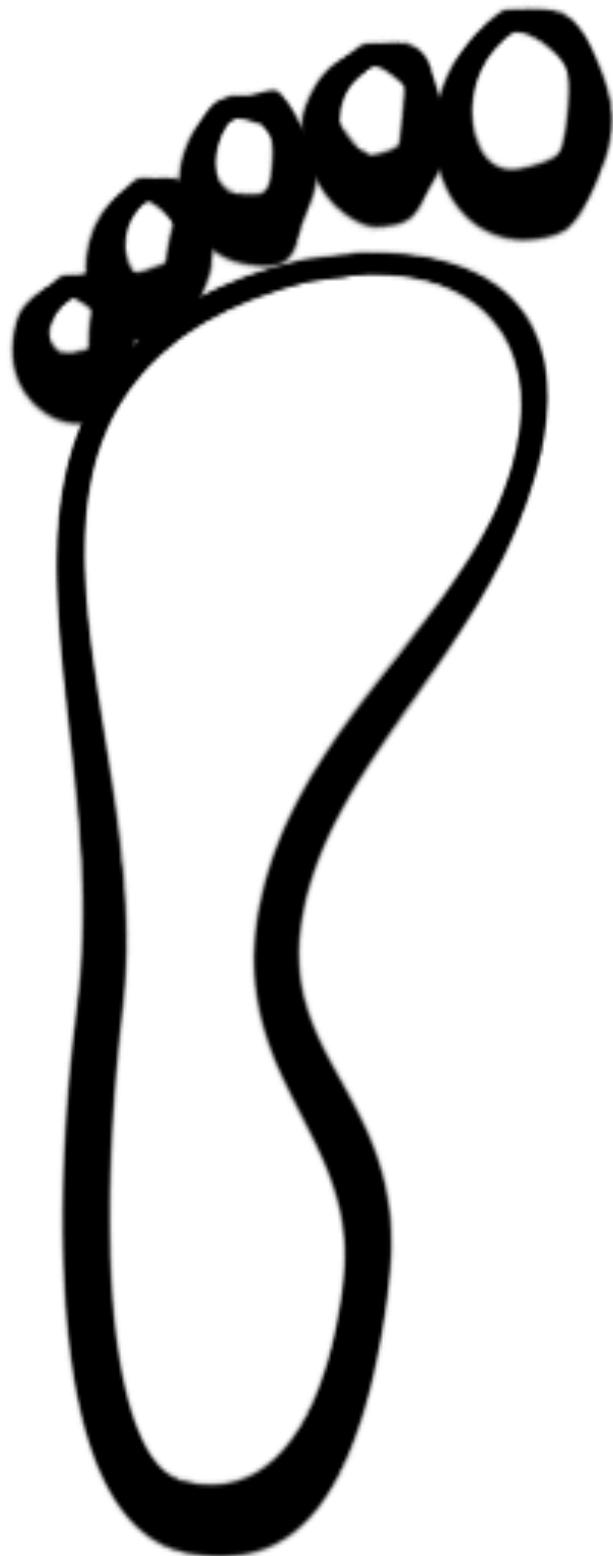
Distribute the footprint handout entitled "WALK" to each student. Instruct each student to write the displayed scripture from Isaiah 30:21 in their footprint.

After everyone has completed their scripture, have the class read the scripture aloud together.

Conclude with a closing prayer asking God to show each of us how to WALK.

**HOW CHRIST FOLLOWERS
SHOULD NOT WALK**





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