



**“But God  
demonstrates his  
own love for  
us in this:  
While we were  
sinners,  
Christ died for us.”**

—Romans 5:8, TNIV



## Just Walk Across the Room:

**Galway City Church— Week 1**

**Single Greatest Gift**

**Prayer and Evangelism Series  
March 4 – April 12, 2009**

## ***Just Walk Across the Room:***

This Four-Week Series will change your mind about evangelism.

This **Four-Week Experience** will prayerfully

**(1) refresh** your appreciation for the Holy Spirit's mysterious ways,

**(2) rekindle** your passion for people, and

**(3) revive** your belief...

... that the single greatest gift you can give to your friends and family members is an introduction to the God who created them, loves them and has a purpose for their lives.

*Over the next four weeks, you'll learn to:*

**(1) Develop friendships** with people far from God

**(2) Discover the stories** behind their life Journey

**(3) Discern what "next steps"** will help point them to faith.

Pointing people to faith is something all of us can do and it shows up on the heels of a simple walk across the room.

# 15

## **Next Week Prep Work**

**[Question 1]- How is Christ's walk and example for us all?**

**[Question 2]- What does it mean to pay attention to being led by the Holy Spirit?**

14

**Assignment Activity ( \_\_\_\_\_ )**

**[1]- Write to the person who left their comfort zone for you. Thank them for that!**

**[2]- Begin praying for one or two people who you will enter into the zone of the unknown for.**

**[3]- Practice being aware of the Holy Spirit's nudging in your life this week.**

**What if evangelism really were as easy as taking a walk across the room?**

The lessons for the first week of our evangelism series asks you to consider the enormous kingdom impact Christ followers could have if they would simply reach out a hand of friendship to people who don't yet know God.

Many Christians spend the vast majority of their lives clinging to safe, insular "Circles of Comfort" instead of looking outside the circle to *really* see the people they are called to impact. They huddle together with their "already-saved" friends and in doing so, deny God the opportunity to use them in the work of evangelism.

But Christ modeled a far different approach. In metaphorical terms, Christ left his own Circle of Comfort — the warm, perfect fellowship of the Trinity— in order to come to planet earth. He entered the uncertain and unfamiliar "Zone of the Unknown" for the explicit purpose of enfolding wobbly and sin scarred people — just like you and me — with grace and love. And when his earthly ministry came to a close, Christ in essence said, "this walk-across-the room behavior is exactly what I want all of my followers to do in my place! Listen for the Spirit's guidance. Leave your Circles of Comfort. Start walking toward the Zone of the Unknown. Reach out your hand, open your mouth, take the risk. And just see what my Father might do!"

It's true: the single greatest gift Christ-followers can give to the people in their lives is an introduction to the God who created them, who loves them, and who has a purpose for their days.

***Session 1: The Single Greatest Gift* to help drive home the point that having eternal impact in someone's life often originates with something as simple as a walk across the room.**

**4**

## **Our Prayer (hope/goal) For Series**

**It is our conviction that:** the single greatest gift you can give to your friends and family members is an introduction to the God who created them, loves them and has a purpose for their lives. *Evangelism.* For some of you, just hearing that word sends a tremor of terror up your spine. Evangelism can be a sticky subject. But here is the truth if you and I and GCBC care about people, then we have already taken the first step toward pointing people to faith. *Evangelism is about caring for people—caring about their journeys, caring about their families, caring about their interests, caring about their needs.*

- (1) We believe it and raise its value @ GCBC.**
- (2) We not afraid of it but passionate about it—and are on a mission.**
- (3) We do it and are experiencing it continually— ( Lord, might we see 6 people come to Christ this year @ GCBC)**
- (4) Your goal for this series would be:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Question on Evangelism/ Question on Prayer**

- (1) What has been your experience with evangelism?**
- (2) How has prayer played into your being a witness for Christ?**

**13**

## **Next Week Prep Work (for \_\_\_\_\_)**

**[Question 1]- 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?**

12

## Assignment Activity ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

[1] 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<br>(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<br>(Luke 7:1-10) | C. Caused him to be blind for three days    |
| ___ Little children<br>(Mark 10:13-16)   | D. Shot straight: "You must be born again!" |

[2] 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?

5

## Prayer and Evangelism and Me

Acts 1 & 2– *They devoted themselves to ...*

**Evangelism is prayer.** S.D. Gordon said, "The real victory in all service is won beforehand in prayer. Service is merely gathering up the results." W. Stanley Mooneyham added, "Let us stop complaining that we don't have enough people, enough money, enough tools. That simply is not true. There is no shortage of anything we need– except of vision and prayer and will. Prayer is the one resource immediately available to us all. If more Christians were on their knees praying, more Christians would be on their feet evangelizing."

Robert Speer wrote, "The evangelization of the world depends first upon a revival of prayer. Deeper than the need for workers; deeper, far, than the need for money; deep down at the bottom of our spiritual lives, is the need for the forgotten secret of prevailing, world-wide prayer. Missions have progressed slowly abroad because piety and prayer have been shallow at home."–Dick Eastman, *Love on Its Knees* (Fleming H. Revell Co., 1989)

### [1] Our PRAISE

**Take time to worship God for His hand of loving kindness, mercy and grace which has caused Him to offer His glorious salvation to mankind.** *Psalms 25:1-7; 31:19-22; 36:5-9; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:4-5; 2:8-9; Titus 2:11.*

### [2] Our Purpose

**Take time to affirm in prayer God's evangelistic purposes and ask His Spirit to fill our hearts with the same intentions.** *Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47.*

### [3] Our Passion

**Pray for a deeper passion. Confess any apathy. Ask for a revival of evangelistic zeal in the church.** *Matthew 9:35-38; 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Romans 9:1-3; 10:1; John 17: 20-26.*

### [4] Our Proclamation

**Ask for boldness in proclamation and pray for others who carry God's Word to the unsaved.** *Ephesians 6:18-20; Colossians 1:28-29; 4:2-6; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6; 5:20; Romans 15:30-33.*

### [5] Our Petition

Pray for specific lost friends, neighbors, acquaintances **that they would be open to the Gospel and attentive to the Spirit's call.**

**AMEN & AMEN!**

**6**

**Week One**

# 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 life.

THIS is what evangelism is—constantly watching for ways to give that gift to someone living far from God.

## Ready to give the “single greatest gift” to someone today?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ to enter the **Zone of the Unknown**

**11**

9. In this week's video we heard 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?

VI. **Video Summary and Closing**

- 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!

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?

VII. **Prayer Points**

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.

# 10

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. Have you been "freaked out" by evangelism at one time or another? If so, which of these several explanations as to why this was the case have 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.

# 7

## The Single Greatest Gift (continued)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ for the Spirit's  
promptings (Matthew 5:13)

3. Just \_\_\_\_\_!  
(Romans 5:8; Philippians 2; John 4)

# 8

## SESSION ONE OUTLINE

### I. **Intro:**

### II. **This Week Overview:**

Big Idea: single greatest gift

Story of Brian Anderson

- \* 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 does it mean to pay attention to and be led by spiritual promptings

### III. **Video Opener and Icebreaker**

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?

### IV. **Video Teaching and Observations**

# 9

### IV. **Video Teaching and Observations (continued)**

### V. **Group Strides Discussion**

1. What part of Brian's story had the greatest impact on you? Please explain.

2. As you think back on your own journey toward God, who is the main person who "took a walk" for you?

3. How would you describe the way in which this person reached out to you?

What part of that experience was most affirming or encouraging to you?

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?