



**“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:

**GCBC— Week 4**

**Grander Vision Living**

**Prayer and Evangelism Series**

**March 4, April 12, 2009**

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

### **Sessions 4**

When Jesus Christ entered the scene more than two thousand years ago, he lived out this "Grander Vision" concept — prioritizing people above all else, seeking out potential in everyone he met, and taking action to draw them toward his Father. As he departed, he in essence said, "What I've done, I now want *you* to do! "Abandon your *lesser* visions in favor of living life the way I intended . . . with one eye on me, one eye on the people I love, and a heart that beats fast for kingdom-building activity. Live in light of the reality that the only things you can take to heaven are the people whose lives you touch! Throw your one and only life — all of your energies, your resources, your passion— into making a difference with *people*, and you will one day say, 'Now *that* was a life well-lived!' "

At its core, Grander Vision Living means allowing other pursuits to fall away in order to focus on the priority that is *nearest* to the heart of God. And when you choose to pursue the Grander Vision, you will be partnering with God in the most magnificent mission imaginable: finding what's lost, restoring what's broken, and reclaiming what's his.

The message for Week 4: Grander Vision Living says "the invitation to live the Grander Vision has been extended to Christ-followers of all shapes and sizes, of all backgrounds and preferences."

Now, a choice has to be made. The invitation is yours to accept or decline.

#### ***[Session 4]***

What is Grander Vision Living? It's allowing other pursuits to fall away in order to focus on the priority that is nearest to the heart of God: people. When you choose to pursue the Grander Vision, you will be partnering with God in the most magnificent mission imaginable: finding what's lost, restoring what's broken, and reclaiming what's his.

### VI. **Video Summary and Closing**

By definition, Christ-followers who choose to become walk-across-the-room people live all of life with the Grander Vision in mind—working, shopping, recreating, and partying with God's people—priority constantly on their radar. Even if their friends and family members don't seem initially receptive to spiritual dialogue, they pray believing that one day, perhaps because of their faithfulness to "take a walk," everyone they know and love will be compelled to submit their lives to Christ.

### VII. **Prayer Points**

Thank God for the reality of the "mind-blowing thing called grace" that all Christ-followers enjoy. Ask him to prompt you toward prayer every morning—prayers for open doors of opportunity—so that you can play a role in giving someone a marvelous before-and-after story.

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3. Whether or not you've ever been involved in a Matthew Party, what fears or concerns would you have about hosting one now?

John 15:7 says that if you remain in Christ and his word remains in you, you may ask whatever you wish and it will be given you. You might think that since God has the power to grant you what ever you wish, he would always move dramatically in people's lives. But as was evidenced by Jim and Bill's decade-long friendship, God's timing and plans are often different from ours (see Isaiah 55:8).

4. How can Christ-followers cultivate God's degree of patience when it doesn't seem like any spiritual progress is being made in the lives of people they care deeply about?

5. Jim Glas mentioned in the video that the trust he and Bill forged in their relationship played a key role in Jim reopening his heart to spiritual dialogue. Based on what you have learned so far in this four-week experience, what are some ways you can build trust with people who are far from God, so that when things finally turn spiritual, they are confident that you have their best interest at heart?

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### Prayer and Evangelism and Me

PRAY THAT GOD WILL **ASSIST US**, HIS CHURCH, TO SPEAK WITH INTEGRITY AND RELEVANCE TO A PEOPLE WHO STAND BEFORE A CHRISTLESS ETERNITY.

PRAY FOR OUR **OUTREACH MINISTRIES**, AS WE PENETRATE INTO THIS CULTURE AND INTO LIVES WITH HIS GOOD NEWS.

i.e. - a.  
c.

b. Easter services  
d.

PRAY THAT GOD WOULD **RAISE UP** AN ALL-STAR TEAM To Be Walk-Across-the Room people.

i.e. - a committed core of fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, who are sold out to the vision of the church for its community.

**4**

## **Week Four**

### **GRANDER VISION LIVING**

Let your light shine before others in such a way that they may see your good works and then glorify your Father who is in heaven.—*Matthew 5:16 (NIV)*

### **Living the Grander Vision means that your ...**

1. \_\_\_\_\_.

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

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

1. Have you ever thought that being a Christian necessarily meant that you had to become a "lifestyle referee" to the world around you? How did it strike you when Bill said Christ-followers are under no obligation to play such a role?

2. What do you think of the "Matthew Party" concept—an event where you invite a few Christ-followers, several seekers, and several people who want nothing to do with God—as presented in this session's video?

## SESSION FOUR OUTLINE

### Grander Vision Living

*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders;  
make the most of every opportunity.  
Let your conversation be always full of grace,  
seasoned with salt, so that you may know  
how to answer everyone.  
Colossians 4:5-6*

I. **Last Week:** Review– Overview– Home Work Assignment

*BIG IDEA*—What is Grander Vision Living? It's allowing other pursuits to fall away in order to focus on the priority that is nearest to the heart of God: people. When you choose to pursue the Grander Vision, you will be partnering with God in the most magnificent mission imaginable: finding what's lost, restoring what's broken, and reclaiming what's his.

II. **This Week Overview:**

This week, you will be introduced to Jim Glas, a long-time friend of Bill Hybels who is still wrestling with issues of faith. When Jim invited Bill to attend weekly dinner parties at his home, Bill chose to leverage them as spiritual opportunities. You may have similar social situations that you can maximize, or you may wish to instigate a few of your own; either way, this session will reveal the power of the "Matthew Party" as a magnificent catalyst for personal evangelism.

III. **Video Opener and Icebreaker**

How can spiritual rituals similar to the one Bill Hybels described reestablish a person's desire to submit to God's agenda for their day?

2. \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Simple Steps We Can All Take**

*Abandon your lesser visions in favor of living life the way God intended ... with one eye on him, one eye on the people he loves, and a heart that beats fast for kingdom-building activity. Live in light of the reality that the only thing you can take to heaven are the people whose lives you touch! Throw your one and only life — all of your energies, your resources, your passion — into making a difference with people, and you will one day say, "Now that was a life well-lived!"*