

Just Walk Across the Room

Session 3

Icebreaker:

Think of a *brief* story regarding something that has significantly impacted your walk with Christ. Perhaps you or someone you know overcame a devastating loss...or experienced unparalleled joy during a time of unusual blessing. What is the story, and what has been the impact on your spiritual journey?

Group Strides Part A

1. In this week's video segment, you witnessed the telling of several really bad stories:

- The **Long-winded** Story that went on...and on...and on...
- The **Fuzzy** Story that never seemed to get to the point
- The **Religionese** Story that was laden with Christian insiders' jargon
- The **Superiority** Story that was filled with pious, haughty language

Which one bothered you the most and why?

2. On the other end of the spectrum, what are a few common denominators you noted in the "good stories" that were told at the end of the video segment?

When a person is open to hearing your faith story, all that he or she really wants to know is what you were like *before* you met Christ; how you came to know Christ; and what you've been like *after* submitting your life to him. In other words, your personal "before-and-after". *This* is fundamental to what makes a faith story good!

3. In chapter 6 of *Just Walk Across the Room*, several examples are given of men and women from Scripture who had before-and-after experiences. Draw a line connecting each person to his or her faith story below:

Man who was born
With a disability

"I walked in shame, but now
I walk in grace!"

Zacchaeus,
A wealthy
Tax collector

"I'd devoted myself to killing
followers of Christ, but now
I am a devoted one myself."

The Apostle Paul

"I was gripped by greed, but
Now I'm gripped by the needs
Of the poor."

Woman who was
Caught in adultery

"I was blind, but now I see!"

4. Have a member of your group read 1 Corinthians 2:14-16 out loud. Based on these verses, why is it important for Christ-followers to tell their faith-stories in a manner that is simple, succinct, humble, and clear to people who are spiritually unconvinced?

Your “Before”

Just like the biblical characters noted in question 3, you have a “before-and-after” faith story. The following sections will help you craft your personal faith story. Work through questions 5 – 8 with a partner from within your small group.

5. What type of person were you before you met Christ? In the space below, write down five to ten adjectives that come to mind. (if you came to faith at a young age, consider how you would describe what you were like prior to developing a thriving, more mature relationship with Christ.)
6. From the adjectives you noted in question 5, what is the one word in particular that best summarizes your “before” state?

Your Encounter with Christ

7. Now describe the circumstances that caused you to submit your life to Jesus Christ. What life-stage were you in? What input did you receive that finally triggered your desire to ask Christ into your life? What was the most significant thing about your making this decision?

Your “After”

8. Now, completing the sentence below, note the *primary difference* that Christ has made in your life.
9. *Since inviting Christ into my life, I’ve become* _____
10. Ready to tell your tale? Have a member of your group keep time as you tell your before-and-after story now. (One thing to keep in mind: in addition to conveying the basic before-and-after framework, be sure to mention one or two areas of your life that Christ is still refining. Nobody has “arrived” – it’s important to acknowledge this reality.)

Group Strides Part B

To get better at telling God’s story, select one illustration from the list below to practice on our own this week. (For complete explanations of each illustration, read pages 135-138 in the book)

- The Bridge
- “Do” vs. “Done”
- The Morality Ladder