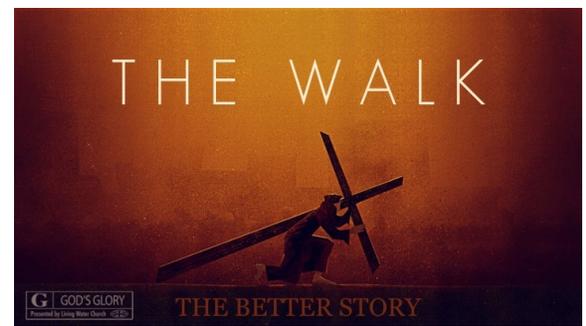




Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



The Walk

Introduction: The 2015 movie “The Walk” told the story of Philippe Petit’s dream of becoming an infamous tightrope walker. On August 7th, 1974, Philippe stretched wire across the north and south towers of the World Trade Center and walked across them. This was an amazing feat! However, this is not the greatest walk that bridged two chasms. The Bible tells how Jesus had “THE Walk” and bridged the distance from hell to heaven—paving the path for sinful man to be redeemed by the grace of God

Text: Luke 16:19-31

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: What comes to mind when you think about heaven? What comes to mind when you think about hell?
2. Why do many people believe in heaven, but disregard hell when the both are taught in scripture?
3. Read Luke 16:19-31 and write/discuss the experience of hell. Look up other verses where Jesus speaks about hell. How does Jesus describe hell?
4. What does it say to you that the rich man did not want his brothers to join him in torment? What should this do for believers in sharing their faith?
5. What caused man to be separated from God? (Isaiah 59:2)—When did the first rebellion against God occur?
6. God is love—therefore He is a God of justice and mercy. When people claim that a loving God could never allow someone to go to hell, they are not understanding the seriousness of the crime of sin. Why must justice be served in order for a judge to be considered a good judge? What is the penalty for sin? (Rom. 6:23)
7. Rom. 3:23 & Psalm 14:1-3. Is there anyone who has lived a perfect holy life before God?
8. What are some false methods that people use to try to make it to heaven?
9. Ephesians 2:8-9. What does this say about man’s effort for salvation?
10. God is a God of Mercy. Because of God’s love, he sent His son to take our sin upon himself. 2 Cor. 5:21. Jesus lived the perfect sinless life and took our penalty. He bore our sins on the cross and experienced the full wrath of God the Father. He satisfied the penalty of sin by his death, thus the justice of God is carried out. He offers forgiveness and salvation to all who will trust in the finished work of Christ—thus displaying God’s mercy. Write out and discuss how Jesus’ “Walk” displays the love, justice, and mercy of God.
11. John 5:24 & Romans 10:9. What must one do to benefit from the work of Christ? Is hearing the gospel enough to save? What does it mean to believe in your heart?
12. A person who is saved is brought from death to life. Salvation is secure in Christ. A believer should not wonder if they are saved, or hope they are saved, or think they are saved . . . they should know they are saved. Why is the believer assured of salvation?
13. Our works do not save us, but saving faith works! A child of God is changed from the inside! The Holy Spirit seals the believer and lives in them. A true believer will love what God loves and hate what God hates. If someone claims to be a believer, but celebrates and loves sin(s) that God hates . . . then why is that person not a believer? How would you dialogue with someone who claims to love Jesus, yet embrace sinful behavior and acceptable?

Think About it:

The chasm of sin that separated man from God was not wide enough for God to bridge. Jesus-God the Son-had “THE Walk” of all walks. He lived a sinless life and obeyed the law perfectly. He lived the life we could never live and died the death that we should have died. He satisfied the wrath of God and made a way for sinners to become saints. Jesus bridged the gap far greater than the World Trade Center—he bridged the gap of sin to salvation!

Moving Forward:

Do you have assurance of your salvation? Are you trusting in the finished work of Christ alone for salvation? Has your heart been changed by the Holy Spirit? Do you love the things that God loves and hate the things that God hates? Are you striving to please the Lord and honor Jesus more and more every day?