

Discover five spiritual practices to help you
WALK CLOSER
with GOD

Grab Gather Grow

GRAB this study, GATHER a group of any size,
and GROW your faith.

The Walk for week of March 29th, 2020

THEME: "Going Fishing, Reflecting Light"

Spiritual Task: Practice 5 acts of Extraordinary Generosity a Month.

Open your Gathering with the following prayer:

Loving and Gracious God, we thank you for your presence in our lives. We thank you for the people who have shared your love and generosity with us, who have made your faithful presence known to us, and to those during these dangerous days make your love known to us by their sacrifice and service. We hear your call to be faithful witnesses and followers of Christ. We look for your guidance, strength and courage as we answer that call, even during these days of social isolation and staying home, in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Read together our Scriptures for the week:

Matthew 4:18-20

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

2 Corinthians 5:20

So we are ambassadors for Christ since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Matthew 28:19-20 (The Great Commission)

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Questions for Reflection/Discussion

(pick one or two or the following questions and discuss with your Gathering)

How has community worship and praying five times a day strengthened your walk with God?

How has study, reading at least 5 verses of scripture per day strengthened your walk with God?

How has service, extending 5 acts of kindness a week, strengthened your walk with God?

How has giving, giving to the church and 5 acts of extravagant generosity a month strengthened your Walk with God?

How is social distancing and staying home strengthened your walk with God?

Talk over with each other any anxieties you or they are having as we enter into these 2 weeks of Staying at Home? How do you see God at work in this? How do you see you sharing your faith during this time?

If reading the book, **The Walk**, what are some of your thoughts or reflections from chapter 5?

Adam Hamilton, the author of *The Walk*, states: "Most people who choose to follow Jesus do so because of the positive witness of Christians through whom they experienced love and from whom they heard a compelling witness and example of what it means to be a Christian." (page 117)

Do you agree? Who were some of those people in your life? How can you be a positive witness this very challenging week? To whom will you be a compelling witness and example to what it means to be a Christian this week?

Read over *The Walk* challenge below and pray about committing to the challenge.



Our Challenge for The Walk

“This is how I run—not without a clear goal in sight” -
Paul (1 Corinthians 9:26)

- *Pray 5 times a day and worship online weekly.
- *Read 5 verses of the Bible daily & study the Bible in a small group or Grab Gather Grow.
- *Practice 5 acts of intentional kindness a week and serve with others at least once.
- *Extend 5 acts of generosity toward others each month, and give generously to God through the church.
- *Let others know you are a Christian and invite 5 people to worship or a service event this year.

What can BUMC do to turn this giant negative into a positive? In what ways can you be part of spreading the Love of God to our neighbors during this pandemic. Is staying home, maybe ordering out to eat once, a form of Christian Service at this time? Is it “fishing for people” or making disciples?

If Children are part of your gathering discuss the following:

Talk about what the word witness means. Come up with a definition. Now come up with a definition of people at witness as it pertains to our faith. What does it mean to “fish for people.”

Service

How are you going to share your faith, witness, to 5 people this year?

How will you give to Brooklyn UMC's General Fund to help us keep our ministry and mission going during these challenging times?

Our **Change4Change** is now our **Good Samaritan Fund** at BUMC to help our members, friends and neighbors get through these difficult times. We have those needing food, help with bills or rent, are now unemployed, have kids at home ... the needs are growing so our Good Samaritan Fund needs your support.

Can you volunteer to one of BUMC's service teams...
running errands, making care calls, delivering groceries, volunteering with CEAP or Loaves & Fishes or our West African Food Pantry, joining a team to make 200 sandwiches for Dignity Center ... to worship and join you in one of our service events.



FAITH
share read talk pray bless



Sunday: Matthew 28:19-20
Monday: Acts 1:1-11
Tuesday: I Peter 3:13-17
Wednesday: Deuteronomy 6:20-25
Thursday: Matthew 19:13-15
Friday: I Corinthians 15:1-10
Saturday Romans 10:11-15

Share your high and low of the day; read a piece of scripture; talk about it, and pray, including your highs and lows. At the end of the night, have someone bless everyone with the following blessing: “May God breakdown and breakthrough on your journey to wholeness in Christ”



Breakthrough Prayer

Our Breakthrough Prayer

God of grace, breakthrough Brooklyn UMC with your Spirit during this time of uncertainty and challenge.

Show us how to be the Heart of the Brooklyns in the midst of this pandemic.

Show us how to be the church to all in the midst of this crisis.

Show us how to minister with those that are ill, those who are dying, those who are mourning, those who struggling with isolation, those who are serving and sacrificing...

Breakthrough my life, help me during this time of social distancing to not distance myself from loving you and neighbor. Amen.

How you can serve at this time through BUMC...

- *Call at least 5 people a week to check up on them and let them know the church is with them.
- *Check on your neighbors for any needs they may have.
- *Join our Care Call Team: A team of people our Care Team is assembling to be in contact with a few of people in need of care, hospitalized, homebound, in isolation ...
- *Join our Pandemic Service Team: A list of people who can run some errands, make some pick-ups, deliver some meals or a food box.
- *Join our Sewing Team making masks for North Memorial Hospital! We have a pattern and the list of materials needed. If you sew we need your skills now!
- *If member of a team/committee of BUMC, engage the team's work through email and conference calls.
- *Volunteer with Loaves & Fishes or the West African Food Bank Ministry, both operating through BUMC during this crisis.
- *Volunteer to make 200 sandwiches for The Dignity Center. Pastor Rich will deliver the supplies needed to you and take them to the Dignity Center.

If I have a need?

If you need anything... Need a call, an errand run, help with setting up online shopping, a meal, a staples package, a care concern ... any need at all please email Mindy (admin@bumc.org) and we will respond to your need as soon as we can.