

The Walk: Five Essential Practices for the Christian Life  
Adam Hamilton

Session 5  
Share: Going Fishing, Reflecting Light  
Study/Discussion Guide

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.' Matthew 5:14-16

Review

- Essential Practice #1: Worship (weekly) and Prayer (daily); 5 components of prayer
- Essential Practice #2: Study (5 verses a day, moving toward 5 chapters a week, or more)
- Essential Practice #3: Serve (find 5 ways to serve or help someone every week)
- Essential Practice #4: Give (demonstrate 5 acts of extravagant generosity each month)

Checking In

- Since the last session, have you found one or more ways to demonstrate extravagant generosity?

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. We hear your call to be faithful witnesses and followers of Christ. We look to you for guidance, strength, and courage as we answer that call. In the name of your Son we pray. Amen.

Listen to the Audio Recording for Session 5

Questions Related to the Recording

- Who are the people responsible for your faith, and how did they witness to you?
- Adam observes that we naturally share what is important to us. What is it about your faith that you feel driven to share with others?
- What do non-religious or nominally-religious people care about? How can we witness to people in a way that makes a connection with those desires and values?
- Do you think of witnessing more as a one-time interaction or a long-term relationship? How can a relational focus shape your understanding of how you share your faith?
- Most people find it easier to think about doing good works and letting those acts speak for us. Why is it important to share our faith with words, too? How can you express your faith in words more directly and frequently?

Bible Study and Discussion – Matthew 5:14-16 (printed above)

- According to this passage, what is Jesus’ strategy for evangelism?
- The word “your” in this passage is plural, signifying a group of people. Why is it important for people of faith to work together in community to be the light of Christ in the world?
- Why is it important for followers of Jesus to also be “light” as individuals?

Book Study and Discussion

Peter Bohler once advised John Wesley, “Preach faith till you have it; and then, because you have it, you will preach faith.”

- What do you think Bohler meant?
- Have you ever found this statement to be true in your own life?
- How did you come to attend Roswell First Presbyterian? Did a “positive review” influence your decision?
- What talents and abilities has God given you that enable you to participate in your church’s ministries of witness and outreach (evangelism and mission)?
- What positive things is Roswell FPC known for?
- What negative things is our church known for?
- What can we do to turn the negatives into positives in order for our church to be a stronger witness for Christ in our community?
- Is there anything else you would like Roswell FPC to be known for? What can you do to make that happen?

Elevator Speeches

Theologian Karl Barth’s summary of the Christian faith: “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.”

Look again at Adam’s “elevator speech” (can be given during an elevator ride, more or less), pp. 132-134.

Consider these questions as you frame your own “elevator speech.”

- How would you summarize the Christian faith in one sentence?
  - What do you believe about God and Christ and the Holy Spirit?
  - How does Christian faith make a difference in your life?
  - Why are you a Christian?
  - Who is Jesus to you?
  - What other statements would you include in your elevator speech?
- Now: write your elevator speech. It should be brief, perhaps 3-4 minutes.
  - Practice your elevator speech!

### Wrapping Up

- Why is it important to be a witness for Christ?
- In what ways do you feel God calling you to go fishing and reflect light?
- The Essential Practice: Share your faith with at least 5 people over the next year. Prepare to issue the first of those invitations.

### Continuing the Essential Practices (Spiritual Disciplines)

1. Practice the disciplines of Worship (weekly) and Prayer (5 times daily); remember the five elements of prayer (p. 37)
2. Practice the discipline of Study (5 verses of scripture per day; grow to 5 chapters per week, or more)
3. Practice the discipline of Service: find ways to help someone, or to serve in another way, 5 times each week
4. Practice the discipline of Giving: commit to 5 acts of extravagant generosity over the next month
5. Practice the discipline of Sharing: commit to sharing your faith with at least 5 people over the next year

### Prayer

Pray the prayer on page 136 in *The Walk*.

### John Wesley's Covenant Prayer (Contemporary Version)

I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;  
put me to doing, put me to suffering;  
let me be employed by you, or laid aside for you,  
exalted for you, or brought low by you;  
let me be full, let me be empty,  
let me have all things, let me have nothing:  
I freely and fully yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.  
And now, glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be confirmed in heaven. Amen.