

**LESSON 4: WALKING TOGETHER**

This includes:

- 1. LEADER PREPARATION**
- 2. LESSON GUIDE**

**1. LEADER PREPARATION****LESSON OVERVIEW**

When we follow Jesus as our Savior and Leader, he becomes our amazing new friend. But deep friendships with other Christians really matter, too—and can be one of the most valuable aspects of following Jesus. This lesson will help students understand the value of walking together with other believers and not embarking on a solo spiritual journey.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES**

1. **WHAT:** Jesus designs Christian community to benefit all his followers.
2. **WHY:** When teenagers realize the value of walking with other believers, they'll treasure them as sources of motivation, encouragement, and accountability.
3. **HOW:** Students can engage in Christian community with a new purpose, both giving and receiving its blessings.

**PRIMARY SCRIPTURE**

Hebrews 10:24-25

**SECONDARY SCRIPTURE**

Proverbs 27:6

**TEACHING PREP**

**LEADER  
TIP**

**Use this short overview to prepare for your lesson. While you may not want to convey this information word-for-word with your group, you'll want to absorb it as you prepare to lead.**

Read Hebrews 10:24-25.

This letter, written to Hebrew Christians, reads like a sermon. The purpose is to motivate and encourage the Christian community as they're maturing in faith and facing persecution and adversity for their beliefs.

Hebrews reminds us that Jesus lived as a human and therefore understood life's challenges. The author (possibly Paul) wants believers to realize that faith in Jesus offers us the strength we need to face difficulties and struggles. The author reminds Christians that Jesus is their true hope and salvation. He urges the early believers not to turn back to Judaism, their first religion. They'd been questioning if Jesus really was the Messiah because they thought he would end their physical suffering.

Verses 24-25 are important reminders to people who are new to the faith or are struggling with it. Being around other believers and seeing their faith in action helps strengthen our own faith. Walking the faith journey together helps Christians see the bigger picture and motivates us to stay on Jesus' path.

As we face daily challenges, hanging out with other Christians can motivate us to grow and stand strong in our faith. This is especially important for new believers as they become rooted and established in their beliefs.

## THE BEFORE & AFTER [OPTIONAL]

### TEXTS OR TWEETS

**Send one or both of these messages to your students prior to your meeting. As with the rest of the curriculum, edit these questions to fit the needs of your ministry.**

- *Need some motivation? Don't miss this week's inspiring conversation. Invite a friend to come along!*
- *How can your friends boost your faith? Come find out—and bring one of them with you!*

### PARENT EMAIL

**Send this email to parents following the lesson to encourage them to continue the conversation at home. Feel free to edit and customize the email to fit your ministry needs.**

Dear parents,

This week in our series "My New Life With Jesus," we focused on walking with other Christians on our faith journey. We discussed the amazing concept of community and what Jesus does when his followers come together.

We explored three main benefits to that. First, gathering with other Christians motivates us, and we can be part of doing big things we can't do on our own. Ask your teenager to tell you about the inspiring video we watched; perhaps they'll even want to show you. (Here's the link: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPDagun6dD0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPDagun6dD0).)

Another benefit to walking with other Christians is that they can encourage us when we face struggles. Plus, they can hold us accountable—and we can do the same for them.

Based on our conversation, I encourage you to follow up with your teenager in these areas:

- *What's something you hope to be part of with other Christians, and why?*
- *For what struggle or challenge would you like to receive encouragement?*
- *How do you feel about the idea of accountability? What can another Christian (maybe me) help you address?*

We're so grateful for your support and prayers. It's a joy to walk together with you in your family's spiritual journey. Have a fantastic week!



## LESSON 4: WALKING TOGETHER

## 2. LESSON GUIDE

## GETTING THINGS STARTED [OPTIONAL]

LEADER  
TIP

Preview the following video clip for your group: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPDagun6dD0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPDagun6dD0) (or find another video about working together). You'll need an Internet connection and a computer or tablet to display the video for your participants.

Welcome your students and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, and then play the video clip.

## ASK:

- What's your reaction to the team's plan? to how it turned out?
- What type of impact did this touchdown have on everyone involved?
- What's the role of a team in individual accomplishments?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *I really like this video for several reasons. First, it features students around your age and is a reminder that young people really do care about each other. I also like the emotion it generates. But most of all, I like that it shows what can happen when teenagers work together to motivate and challenge each other. That ties in well to our topic today.*

## TEACHING POINTS

LEADER  
TIP

Use the Teaching Points to help students capture the essence of each lesson with more discussion and less lecture-style teaching. Remember: All throughout these lessons, it's up to you to choose (1) how many questions you use and (2) the wording of the main points—keep ours, or change the wording to make it clearer for your audience.

Read Hebrews 10:24-25 together as a group. Because this passage is so brief, consider having students read the verses several times, from different translations of the Bible.

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Being in community with other Christians is a really cool privilege. Let's talk about how it can bless each of us—individually and as a whole.*

## 1. WALKING TOGETHER PROVIDES MOTIVATION AND OPPORTUNITIES

## ASK:

- Think of a time you needed to be motivated to accomplish something. Who motivated you or helped you reach the goal?
- Think of a time you were part of a group that accomplished something you couldn't have done on your own. What was that like?

- *Hebrews 10:24 talks about motivating one another to acts of love and good works. What are some examples of what this has looked like in your life?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Jesus moves through other Christians to encourage us to do things we'd have a hard time doing on our own. We have the privilege of building God's kingdom with others who follow Jesus. How cool is that? But Jesus also moves through other believers to help us when we're struggling with something hard.*

## **2. WALKING TOGETHER CAN GIVE US ENCOURAGEMENT DURING STRUGGLES**

**ASK:**

- *When people face challenges, why do they often feel alone, even if they're surrounded by others?*
- *When have you been able to encourage someone facing a struggle? What was that like?*
- *Jesus could choose to encourage people by himself. Why do you think he moves through other people to do that?*
- *What are some practical ways you have encouraged other Christians when they're facing challenges?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *During tough times, it can make all the difference in the world to feel supported and loved. Other Christians are a great source of encouragement when we feel like giving up. Plus, our fellow believers also can make us better and stronger.*

**Read Proverbs 27:6 together as a group. Because this passage is so brief, consider having students read the verses several times, from different translations of the Bible.**

## **3. WALKING TOGETHER PROVIDES ACCOUNTABILITY**

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *We each have strengths and weaknesses, but sometimes we're blind to the things we don't do well. Other Christians can help us identify and overcome those weaknesses. They can help us grow and, in the process, hold us accountable for making wise choices.*

**ASK:**

- *What's one of your strengths? What's one of your weaknesses?*
- *What do you think Proverbs 27:6 means?*
- *When did you hear something difficult that was ultimately good for you to hear, and how did it impact you?*
- *How do you know the difference between simple criticism and input that's hard to receive, but good?*
- *What's the best way to share hard feedback with a friend?*



## EXTRA DISCUSSION [OPTIONAL]

Ask kids to form groups of two or three to discuss these questions.

### ASK:



- *Accountability involves being held responsible for your decisions. Our parents and teachers usually hold us accountable, but friends and mentors can do that for each other, too. Who in your life keeps you accountable? What is that relationship like?*
- *If you don't have that kind of relationship right now, what do you think you're missing in your life right now? Who can you ask to form an accountability partnership with you?*

Bring everyone back together, and ask a few people to share answers to the previous questions, as time permits.

## LIVING IT OUT

### ASK:

- *As a group, in what ways do we “walk together” well? How might we be able to grow and improve?*
- *How can our group be an example for the church or community as a whole about walking together in faith and love?*
- *If people in your life motivate, encourage, and challenge you, how can you thank them for their role in your life? It will probably mean more to them than you think!*

Close in prayer together, asking Jesus to help students grow as they walk together in faith.

## SUMMARY



**Provide a quick summary or take-home challenge based on (1) this lesson's content, (2) the dialogue that took place today, (3) your understanding of the issues and struggles your teenagers are facing, and (4) the big picture of your youth ministry and what your leadership team wants accomplished with the teaching and discussion time.**

## FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]

**Encourage and/or challenge your teenagers to memorize the Scripture below.**

*“Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy” (Proverbs 27:6).*