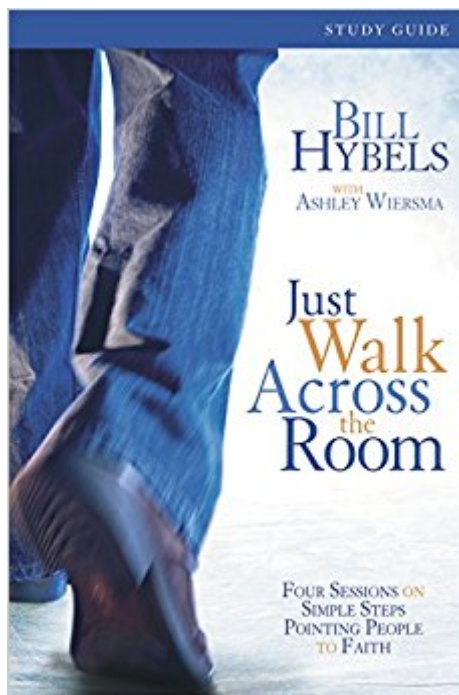




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# Just Walk Across The Room Participant's Guide: Four Sessions On Simple Steps Pointing People To Faith (Zondervangroupware)



## Synopsis

Note: This book is a Participant's Guide(Study Guide). The Book cover images may vary. Building on the solid foundation laid in *Becoming a Contagious Christian*, *Just Walk Across the Room* signals the next era in personal evangelism. Pastor Bill Hybels's firm conviction is that the highest value in personal evangelism is being attuned to and cooperative with the promptings of the Holy Spirit. This means playing only the role you are intended to play—walking when the Spirit says to walk, talking when the Spirit says to talk, and falling silent when the Spirit suggests that you've already said enough. More than two thousand years ago, Jesus himself introduced the perfect model for evangelism. He left the marvelous adoration of the angels and the perfection of heaven, and he chose to "walk" clear across the cosmos. He had no memorized script, no forced formulas. Instead, he was armed only with an offer of redemption to people just like you and me, many of whom were neck-deep in pain of their own making. Today, the goal for every Christian is to reflect Christ's love and follow his example by taking simple walks across rooms—leaving our circles of comfort and extending hands of care, compassion, and inclusiveness to people living far from God. Hybels encourages Christ-followers to "live in 3-D"—developing friendships, discovering stories, and discerning appropriate next steps—as a means of learning to understand the Spirit's promptings. With fresh perspectives from his own reflections and experiences collected during his most recent decade of ministry, Hybels shows with undeniable clarity the power of this approach to evangelism. The stakes are high. The implications are eternal. And you may be only a conversation away from having unparalleled impact on someone's life—if you will just walk across the room.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Evangelism is as simple and as scary as walking across the room, according to Hybels, well known senior pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill. His heartfelt burden for sharing the Christian message is clear as he guides readers to a new understanding of why and how they can help others meet God. He offers solid advice on evangelism, yet does so without sounding like he's checking off items on a spiritual list. His form of evangelism is relational, what he calls "Living in 3D." Hybels enlarges on the three Ds—develop friendships, discover stories, discern next steps—in a clear, conversational way, all the while challenging Christians to move beyond their insulated "evangelism-void vacuum." He encourages Christians to explore "the power of story" and to learn how to tell their own spiritual narratives concisely and effectively. Readers will find inspiration and honesty in this book that mirrors Hybels's personal convictions and those of his church as well: "It really is true: the spread of the gospel... boils down to whether you and I will continue to seek creative ways to engage our friends, inviting them to explore the abundance of the Christ-following life...." (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Evangelism is as simple and as scary as walking across the room, according to Hybels, well known senior pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill. His heartfelt burden for sharing the Christian message is clear as he guides readers to a new understanding of why and how they can help others meet God. He offers solid advice on evangelism, yet does so without sounding like he's checking off items on a spiritual list. His form of evangelism is relational, what he calls 'Living in 3D.' Hybels enlarges on the three Ds---develop friendships, discover stories, discern next steps---in a clear, conversational way, all the while challenging Christians to move beyond their insulated 'evangelism-void vacuum.' He encourages Christians to explore 'the power of story' and to learn how to tell their own spiritual narratives concisely and effectively. Readers will find inspiration and honesty in this book that mirrors Hybels's personal convictions and those of his church as well: 'It really is true: the spread of the gospel... boils down to whether you and I will continue to seek creative ways to engage our friends, inviting them to explore the abundance of the Christ-following life....' (Aug.) -- Publisher's Weekly --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition

of this title.

I am a retired Lutheran pastor and I give the sermon periodically at the church my wife and I attend. The pastor is preaching a theme that relates to the light of Christ coming to us and passing through us to our neighbors in connection with the season of Epiphany. Someone had told me a story about Bill Hybels recruiting non-Christians for his boat in sailing regattas and I wanted to use it in my sermon, but I wanted to find an accurate account of the story. Through digging around on the Internet I became aware of this book. It was so very convenient to buy it for my Kindle and download it in a few seconds. Sure enough, the story I needed was in this book. I used the book to outline basic principles of friendship evangelism in a 500 word summary of the sermon that appears in the Sunday church bulletin. I mentioned in the sermon this is not the only book of its type, but it is a good one, and I encouraged the congregation to buy and use it. At least one woman told me she planned to buy it for her e-reader. People often feel shy because they do not know what to say to someone after the initial "hello." I often encourage people to ask what someone likes to do in his or her free time. People come home from work and are ready to forget it. Asking about what someone does starts a conversation that usually ends quickly, but asking about someone's avocational interests ignites a conversation that usually perpetuates itself without effort. I wish the book had said more about things like this. If you would like to witness your Christian faith to friends, co-workers, relatives, and neighbors; this book is a good assist. But, be fore-warned that it is most often a long term relationship process, not something that is finished in a day or two.

This book delivered magnificently on its goal of encouraging believers to begin to regularly share their faith in a way that is sensitive, appropriate, authentic, and sustainable as a way of life. Wonderful examples of Christians reaching out in love and truth to the world around them written by an author who is driven by the same love and concern for those who have not trusted in Jesus.

Being alone in a crowd without anyone talking to you is a sure way to un-invite a person to return. Bill Hybels has written a searching and challenging book about being real in our Christian walk and not come off as a "religious snob. I first learned about this approach by reading a book published by The Salvation Army titled "SAY SOMETHING - Tell them. Win Then. Establish Them." by Stephen Banfield and Donna Leedom. Although there are those who seek God as a result of evangelistic services at a local church, most often it is because someone in their past has told that person about God over the years. I remember addicts who grew up in the influence of a Godly parent or

grandparent. After they "hit bottom" in their life and heard of this same God, they were eager to accept God and begin living the Christian life. I have personally tried many of the "hottest approaches" to evangelism over many years. Some worked short term, but checking one to two years later so many of the new converts were no longer visible in the church providing follow up ministry. Many churches have a "our doors are open - they can come to us" attitude. I have purchased the Participant's Guide and the teaching DVD. I am studying the whole set of material for my personal devotional and learning experience and hopefully I will be able to teach it to fellow church members.

This book clearly articulates our role as believers. It identifies that without a doubt we are here to in some way lead others to God....share our faith, and let God take care of the outcome. His Spirit was with us as others led us to understand Grace. His Spirit is here now to prepare us for the doors He specifically opens for us to walk through. When there is a whisper prompting us to walk, I can no longer say I don't have a role. Pray and ask Him to lead and let him control my steps, my listening and my tongue. God bless you Bill for your servant leadership. I enjoy your writing style, the personal frame of mind you offer, the challenges we should not shy away from and always the benefit and nourishment to our souls. I've been to Willow. Done leadership conferences there and have been truly blessed. I've visited with Bill personally even though he likely wouldn't remember me from Adam. Bill is the real deal.

The author challenges Christians to reflect on the progression of a believer's journey to the cross and appropriate roles that obedient Christ-followers should play along the way. He does a wonderful job of providing real world examples of Christ-followers (Biblical and contemporary) who have listened to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to step out in faith. He makes a strong case for all believers to prayerfully seek God, asking how He would aid us in engaging someone whose soul-destination hangs in the balance. The book is a strong, yet edifying, rebuke to any notion that God wants us to be "comfortable Christians" or to live our lives in "silent witness." Very thought provoking and convicting.

I have purchased this guide to go along with Bill Hybels book "Just Walk Across the Room". I have found there are some of the people in the local church that are ready to reach outside of their group (congregation) and genuinely love them for Jesus. Many times when a church is planning evangelistic efforts the commits afterward are about how many members did the church gain. I believe the effort should be to gain them for God and let the person they are witnessing to make the

change to denomination membership as God leads them. This book is a useful Christian tool for a believer to allow God to lead them in their daily Christian walk and learn to love others as Christ loves them.

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