

# Act. Love. Walk

MICAH 6:8

## ACT.LOVE.WALK: Walk Humbly

### Large Group Talk 3

**Objective:** This session focuses on what it looks like to walk with God, to fall into step with our Creator. It requires a great deal of humility to walk his way and not our own in the first place, but it also grows our humility once we've started. Walking with God means following the journey of life beside him. It means we know how to connect with him and communicate with him. Through that process, we get a glimpse of who God is, giving us a whole new perspective on ourselves—a humbling one.

#### **Introduction:**

**Say Something Like:** *Last time we met, we talked about how God spoke to his people through Micah. We focused on Micah 6:8, looking specifically at God's command to "love mercy":*

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).

*In this session, we're going to focus on the last "requirement" in this verse: to walk humbly with God.*

**Ask:** What are some compliments you've gotten lately?

**Say Something Like:** *We all like getting compliments, right?*

*"Hey, good game!"*

*"You look nice today."*

*"Your presentation was great!"*

*"You're a really good friend."*

*We like hearing these things, but have you ever been around someone who compliments himself or herself?*

*"I played a good game."*

*"I look awesome today."*

*"My presentation was great!"*

*"I'm a really good friend."*

*When people complement themselves, it's different, isn't it? It's annoying. It's a little ridiculous. We don't like to hear others boasting about themselves. And you know what? God isn't too fond of it either. He doesn't want us to be prideful, boasting about our accomplishments or abilities. In fact, God desires the opposite: he wants us to be humble.*

**Say Something Like:** *During our last two large group sessions, we talked about God's expectations for us based on Micah 6:8. Let's read that verse one more time.*

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).

*Humility is something God values. It's something he expects from his followers. It's something he longs for in his followers. But that doesn't just mean we should avoid bragging. God does not want us to live prideful lives, but "walking humbly with God" involves a little more than just abstaining from boastful remarks.*

### **Teaching: Walk Humbly with God**

#### **1. Start with the Walk**

**Say Something Like:** *God's requirement of walking humbly with him starts with a connection. He wants you to walk with him. He wants a close relationship with you. And regardless of the terrain, the circumstances, the storms of life, or the sunny days, he wants you to be next to him.*

*Jesus, the Son of God, showed us how important this connection with God is by constantly seeking out moments to get away and build on his relationship with his Father. He set a perfect example for us. Instead of boasting about himself, he always pointed to God. And in order to walk humbly with God, Jesus knew he needed to spend a lot of time in prayer with just his Father.*

*"After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone" (Matt. 14:23).*

*"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed" (Mark 1:35).*

*"But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:16).*

*God expects us to do certain things as a result of our faith. Among those, he expects us to act justly and to love mercy. But if our hearts are not walking with him, our actions are meaningless. This is why Jesus spent so much time in prayer—slipping away to spend time alone with God.*

#### **2. Get a Glimpse**

**Say Something Like:** *When we really get a glimpse of who God is, it's a lot easier to put our own prideful lives into perspective. God is incredible, and beyond what we could ever understand. Check out how huge and awesome God is:*

“To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing (Isa. 40:25–26).

*Check out what David writes in this Psalm about how well the God of the universe knows us.*

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them. Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand (Ps. 139:16–18).

**Say Something Like:** *The God who created the stars and set the moon in place also knows each and every aspect of your life. This may be hard to believe, but he even knows you better than you know yourself. The more we know about God—how big, awesome, knowing, and patient he is (the list goes on)—the more we see ourselves in the proper perspective. We get a different view of our lives than when we only concentrate on the things and people right around us. As you begin the journey of walking humbly, be sure to keep God right at the center of your vision.*

### 3. Reasons to Boast

**Say Something Like:** *The Apostle Paul was a big deal. He was well respected and accomplished more than most of us ever will. Paul worked hard for everything he achieved, and he had many reasons to be proud.*

*Along his journey, Paul got a glimpse of God. His blind spot disappeared, and he saw God's glory in the person of Jesus. Suddenly, his own achievements looked pretty small in comparison. It changed his whole perspective, from what he thought about to how he communicated with people. It changed every single part of his life, mission, and dreams. Paul's glimpse of God brought his own life into humble perspective. Listen to what Paul wrote about this new view:*

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ (Phil. 3:7–8).

*Paul was walking his own road, pursuing his own greatness. But in light of God's incomparable greatness, everything changed. Paul realized how small and meaningless his own accomplishments were outside of his connection with God.*

*Paul started walking humbly with God. He let go of his own self-centeredness and focused on a relationship with the One who knew every single aspect of his life before he even lived it.*

**Putting it all together:**

**Say Something Like:** *Walking with God is an amazing thing. It requires us to humble ourselves by turning from our self-centered lives to fall into step with God. We can't walk with God if we can't see him, and we can't see him if our vision is blocked by ourselves. So look beyond yourself. Look past your own achievements and wants and frustrations toward God and his calling for your life.*

*That may sound like a big step, but thankfully God doesn't require us to be perfect. That's the awesome thing about walking with God: it takes a small amount of humility to start, but it grows our humility in huge ways once we're doing it. Because walking with God really is the best thing for us. We become like those we spend the most time with. When we start walking humbly with God, we'll discover that we start acting justly, loving mercy, and growing in humility just like our Lord.*

**[Speaker note:** The following questions will be discussed deeper in the small group lesson]

**Question 1:** How would God describe your walk with him?

**Question 2:** Do the words you speak to others reflect an accurate picture of God?

**Looking Forward:** Let the students know that the next lesson will look at the foundation for acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly: knowing and being transformed by Jesus. Be sure to give them any instructions they might need to go from here.