

Act.Love.Walk

MICAH 6:8

Act.Love.Walk Introduction and setting up your event.

Kick-off Logistics:

This is the kickoff for all the lessons and the DNow weekend. Spend some time laying the ground rules and explaining the schedule for the event.

Here are some things to consider talking about:

1. Tell students why your church or ministry is doing this event. Cast the vision for students to know why it's important and why the church values them.
2. Let students know what they can expect from this weekend. For example: a chance to worship God, learn more about following Christ, have a lot of fun and eat really good food, get some quality time with friends, have ministry leaders invest in them, get answers to tough questions.
3. Let students know what is expected of them. For example: coming to all the sessions, being honest, treating the host homes with care.

Speaker Note: These Large Group Outlines are designed to give you a foundation to speak from. They are full of optional illustrations, object lessons, and anecdotes that you can use as much or as little as you'd like.

*Be sure to view any video clips ahead of time.

*Also included in your *Act.Love.Walk* download are PowerPoint backgrounds to use with these Large Group Outlines or any other place you see fitting to make your event great!

Act.Love.Walk Introduction

Say Something Like: *If your best friend is having a rough time, he or she expects you to be supportive. If your parents give you a curfew, you might not like it, but you are expected to honor it. If you're on the soccer team, you're expected to attend practice, aren't you? It's common sense, right?*

But what if, one day, a football player came to soccer practice? What if he walked out on the field and started going through drills with the soccer team? The coach would probably stop practice and ask him what he's doing (if he didn't just throw the football player off the field). Everyone would scratch their heads and wonder what that kid was thinking.

Why? Because his actions don't make sense. They defy expectations. Soccer players and only soccer players attend soccer practice.

Similarly, if your best friend was having a rough day and she came to you in

tears, would you ever tell her, “Sorry, I’m just not in the mood to talk to you right now”? I hope not. (If you did, she would probably need to find a new best friend!) In this scenario, she came to you because she knew you, of all people, would be there for her. She expected that. It just made sense.

Everyone has an identity shaped by the various roles they play—whether you’re a soccer player, a best friend, a sister, a brother, or whatever else. And those roles come with expectations. Your actions should line up with your role.

Ask: What is one role you play in your life? What are a few of the expectations associated with that role?

What about your role as a Christ-follower? How are followers of Christ expected to act? How are people who follow God, or say they follow God, expected to live their lives?

The Israelites, God’s chosen people, had to be reminded how to act over and over. Knowing they would fail frequently, God initiated a system of sacrifices. These sacrifices gave the Israelites a way to atone for their sins. But they started viewing these sacrifices as “get out of jail free” cards. Instead of truly repenting and trying to live God-honoring lives, they relied on those sacrifices to make everything better. They were missing the point.

This made God pretty angry. The sacrificial system was supposed to provide a way for God’s people to humble themselves before him, not give the Israelites an excuse to sin more. God cares more about what’s in our hearts than empty rituals. God wants his people to lead holy lives by following his will. He doesn’t want to see his people just going through the motions.

Because the Israelites weren’t getting it, God sent the prophet Micah to answer the question, “What are God’s expectations for us?” Here’s his answer from Micah 6:6–8:

With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow down before the exalted God?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
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.

*This passage offers three clear examples of what God expects from his people. These three things aren't just rules to follow; they're signs that our hearts have turned to God and we're following him. As followers of Christ, we are expected to **act justly**, to **love mercy**, and **walk humbly** with God.*