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GENERAL INFORMATION

About Walking Toward Eternity

Walking Toward Eternity is a Catholic adult faith formation program that seeks to help people hear God's word to them in the prayerful reading of Scripture and to apply it, one step at a time, to real situations.

Each eight-part study program focuses on a related group of topics that are essential for living out the Christian life. The lessons involve home study and meditation on Scripture using *lectio divina*, small group discussion of the truths that were learned, an informative and inspiring DVD presentation, and a time of prayer and commitment to change, preferably before the Blessed Sacrament. This follow-up to *The Great Adventure* Bible Study Program helps to turn "head knowledge" into "heart knowledge." It challenges people to begin to "live in the story" by meditating on Scripture and applying it to their lives.

Series One: Daring to Walk the Walk

Session One: Hearing the Voice of God

Session Two: Walking in Love

Session Three: Walking in Forgiveness

Session Four: Walking in Humility

Session Five: Walking in Prayerfulness

Session Six: Walking in Faithfulness

Session Seven: Walking in Sacrifice

Session Eight: Walking in Thankfulness




The primary goal of *Walking Toward Eternity* is to help people hear the voice of God through the prayerful reading of Scripture. Each session provides multiple opportunities to achieve this with Journal exercises as well as group and private prayer.

Your study's Core Team can contribute to the effectiveness of the small group and private prayer times by doing three simple things:

- Make prayer the foundation of your planning.
- Make time to prepare facilitators to lead the small groups.
- Make sure there is a quiet, reverent setting for the closing prayer time, preferably before the Blessed Sacrament.

The closing time of prayer, as brief as it is, can be a powerful first step as people "walk toward Eternity."



Program Elements

Home Preparation

For four days each week, the *Walking Toward Eternity* Journal guides participants in ten to fifteen minutes of prayerful reading and reflection on Scripture passages related to the topic at hand. In Series One: *Daring to Walk the Walk*, each topic is a virtue or Christ-like attitude that helps us along the road to eternal life. The questions help participants focus on understanding the virtue, its importance, and what it looks like in practice.

Each day begins on a new, dated page in the Journal as shown below. Over the course of the week, participants are drawn more into the practice of *lectio divina* as they are encouraged to listen for the voice of God in Scripture.

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Daring to Walk the Walk

DAY 1

Date _____

The Meaning of Love

Pray before you begin. Ask the Lord to show you what love truly is.

1. Look up the word "love" in the dictionary. How is love defined?
 - a. 1 John 3:16
 - b. 2 John 1:6
 - c. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
2. Discover what the Bible has to say about love. Read the following verses aloud. Read each one again slowly. Repeat it in your mind and think about what it says. After each verse, write down the words, phrases, or concepts that most stand out to you.
 - a. 1 John 3:16
 - b. 2 John 1:6
 - c. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
3. Circle the word or phrase you wrote down in Question 2 that speaks most to you. Why did you choose it?

Class Time (allow two hours)

- Group Discussion (45 minutes)

After the introductory class, each session starts with a thirty- to forty-five-minute small group discussion. Facilitators lead participants through a brief exercise of *lectio divina* before guiding them through a discussion of the topic at hand.

- DVD Presentation (50 minutes)

A forty-five- to fifty-minute talk by Jeff Cavins reinforces the lesson, suggests practical steps for personal growth, and challenges participants to take one step toward change in the following week.

- Private Prayer

A short time of quiet (preferably before the Blessed Sacrament) is observed after the presentation to allow time for people to listen to the Word spoken into their own life, to hear how Christ is asking them to change in that area, and to plan their next step.

Materials

- *Walking Toward Eternity* Leaders Guide and downloadable resources from WalkingTowardEternity.com
- Series One: *Daring to Walk the Walk* DVD Set (eight, 50-minute sessions on four DVDs; CDs are also available)
- Journal (one per participant; includes *Walking Toward Eternity* Bookmark with instructions for *lectio divina*)
- Optional: extra DVD or CD set for lending library
- Bible (one per participant; a Catholic version is recommended)

Each day begins on a new, dated page in the journal as shown below. Over the course of the week, participants are drawn more into the practice of *lectio divina* as they are encouraged to listen for the voice of God in Scripture.

Session Overviews

Session One

Session One begins with a DVD introduction to *Walking Toward Eternity*, followed by an explanation of the home preparation and group discussion parts of the study:

- Registration/Materials
- Welcome (5-10 minutes)
- DVD Presentation (about 50 minutes)
- Small Group Orientation (30-40 minutes)
- Close (five minutes)

Sessions Two Through Eight

The tone is first set by a brief group exercise of *lectio divina* on a Scripture pertinent to the topic. Each of these class sessions continues with a small group discussion of a particular topic based on the lesson members have completed. The groups then gather together for a DVD presentation and the class closes with prayer—if possible, before the Blessed Sacrament:

- Welcome (5-10 minutes)
- Small group discussion (40-45 minutes)
- DVD presentation (45-50 minutes)
- Silent prayer (10-15 minutes)