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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Learning to Walk

Use with the full teaching and a Bible. Watch or read first, complete the questions, then discuss and apply. For family or homeschool use, an adult may choose a shorter section and accept spoken answers.

The summary is a reading aid. Test the teaching's explanations against the cited passages. Keep the answer key and facilitator notes separate when distributing learner pages.

Open the teaching

Teaching summary

This teaching examines what it means to learn to walk in the faith by comparing spiritual growth to the way a child learns to walk. A child is not born knowing how to do everything a mature person should know, but grows through a process of learning, imitation, and practice. In the same way, the teaching explains that a person is first born into the faith, as described in John 3:7 and 1 Peter 1:23. At that beginning stage, believers are not expected to know everything about the Word of God. Like small children, they have much to learn.

The teaching then emphasizes the humility and willingness to learn that should characterize a child in the faith. Hebrews 5:13 describes one who lives on milk as unskilled in the word of righteousness, while 1 Corinthians 13:11 shows that remaining in a childlike state is not the goal. At the same time, Matthew 18:2-4 presents the humility of a child as something believers must retain. Ephesians 5:8 brings these ideas together by instructing believers to "walk as children of light," raising the question of what that light represents.

The teaching connects Ephesians 5:8 with Isaiah 51:4 and Proverbs 6:23, where YHWH's instruction and commandments are associated with light. On that basis, it understands walking as children of light to include walking according to Torah, the commandments written by Moses. Exodus 18:20 describes showing the people the way in which they must walk, and Leviticus 18:4 and 26:3 connect walking with YHWH's statutes and commandments. Ephesians 5:1 calls believers to imitate YHWH as beloved children. These connections explain the teaching's reading; they do not mean that every biblical use of light has only one referent.

The teaching presents Messiah Yeshua as the perfect example of this walk. Yeshua followed the Torah and lived according to the Word of God rather than according to later denominational traditions. A quotation from Dr. Brad Young is used to stress that the historical Yeshua was Jewish and that Torah stood at the center of his faith and obedience to his Father. Therefore, when people enter the faith, they are to learn how to observe the Word of God as Moses wrote it and to follow the example Yeshua provided.

The teaching uses Acts 15 to illustrate gradual learning among Gentiles entering the faith. It understands the four prohibitions against things polluted by idols, sexual immorality, what has been strangled, and blood in light of a pagan-worship background. That historical connection is the teaching's explanation; the decree itself lists the prohibitions without spelling out that entire background. The teaching treats the instructions as an initial step, like learning to crawl, and reads Acts 15:21, where Moses is read every Sabbath in the synagogues, as pointing toward continued

learning. This discipleship reading of verse 21 is an interpretation, not an explicit curriculum in the council's letter.

Finally, the teaching connects walking in faith with avoiding sin and imitating Yeshua. First John 3:4 defines sin as lawlessness, so learning and following YHWH's commandments is part of learning to walk faithfully. First John 2:1-6 calls believers to obey and also points to Yeshua as advocate when they sin. Salvation is received by grace through faith; growing obedience is its fruit, not its price. Learners are called to repent and mature without being expected to know or perform everything perfectly at once. The lesson closes with 1 John 2:28, encouraging believers to abide in Yeshua with confidence as they await his appearing.

Summary points

- Learning to walk in the faith is a process, much like a child learning to walk physically.
- Believers begin by being born into the faith and are not expected to know everything immediately.
- A child in the faith should remain humble, willing, and ready to learn.
- Ephesians 5:8 tells believers to walk as children of light.
- The teaching connects walking as children of light with biblical passages that describe YHWH's instruction and commandments as light.
- Walking in the faith means learning to follow YHWH's statutes and commandments.
- Messiah Yeshua is presented as the perfect example of a Torah-observant walk.
- The teaching reads Acts 15 as initial instruction for Gentile believers followed by continued learning from Moses.
- First John 3:4 defines sin as lawlessness, connecting obedience to the Torah with avoiding sin.
- Those who abide in Yeshua are called to walk in the same way he walked.

Fill in the blank

Use the teaching and the cited Bible passages. Equivalent wording is welcome when it expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. The teaching describes learning to walk in the faith as a _____.

2. The first step described in the teaching is being _____ into the faith.

3. Ephesians 5:8 tells believers to walk as children of _____.

4. The teaching connects biblical “light” with YHWH’s instruction, or the _____.

5. According to 1 John 3:4, sin is _____.

6. Ephesians 5:1 tells believers to be imitators of _____ as beloved children.

Challenging

1. Isaiah 51:4 says YHWH will set his justice for a _____ to the peoples.

2. Exodus 18:20 says the people were to be shown the way in which they must _____.

3. In the quotation from Dr. Brad Young, Yeshua’s faith and obedience centered on the gift given at Mount Sinai: _____.

4. Acts 15:21 says Moses was read every _____ in the synagogues.

5. The teaching compares the first instructions in Acts 15 to learning to _____.

6. According to 1 John 2:28, abiding in Yeshua prepares believers to have _____ when he appears.

Group discussion

Discuss with respect, support answers from the passages, and allow time to think. Use the lines for brief notes or a notebook for longer responses.

1. How does the process of a child learning to walk help explain the teaching's view of spiritual growth?

2. Why does the teaching emphasize both the humility of a child and the need to mature beyond spiritual childhood?

3. How do Isaiah 51:4 and Proverbs 6:23 shape the teaching's understanding of the command to "walk as children of light" in Ephesians 5:8?

4. Why does the teaching present Yeshua's Torah-observant life as the model for how believers should walk in the faith?

5. How does the teaching interpret Acts 15:19-21 as a starting point for new believers and continued learning? Which details are stated directly in the passage, and which are inferred?

6. How does the definition of sin as lawlessness in 1 John 3:4 connect with the instruction in 1 John 2 to walk in the same way Yeshua walked?

Answer key

For the leader or parent. Answers follow the teaching; references help you check the wording and context. Accept equivalent wording where appropriate.

Basic

1. process
Teaching opening child-growth analogy

2. born
John 3:7; 1 Peter 1:23

3. light
Ephesians 5:8

4. Torah
Isaiah 51:4; Proverbs 6:23

5. lawlessness
1 John 3:4

6. God
Ephesians 5:1

Challenging

1. light
Isaiah 51:4

2. walk
Exodus 18:20

3. Torah
Brad Young, Meet the Rabbis, p. 46, as quoted in the teaching

4. Sabbath
Acts 15:21

5. crawl
Acts 15:19–21

6. confidence
1 John 2:28

Facilitator notes

These are suggested directions for discussion, not a required script or a test of identical wording. Invite participants to explain the passage and consider a faithful practical response.

1. The analogy emphasizes beginning, learning from others, practicing, and growing over time. New believers are not expected to know everything immediately, but they are encouraged to desire maturity and follow Yeshua's example rather than remain permanently at the beginning.

John 3:7; 1 Peter 1:23; transcript opening analogy

2. The teaching distinguishes humility from immaturity. Believers should retain a child's willingness to learn while leaving childish ways behind. Growth means greater understanding and faithful practice, without losing dependence on YHWH or treating others with superiority.

Hebrews 5:13; 1 Corinthians 13:11; Matthew 18:4

3. Isaiah and Proverbs connect instruction, commandments, and justice with light. The teaching uses those connections to understand children of light as people learning to walk in Torah. This is a cross-text interpretive argument; Ephesians 5:8 does not itself use the word Torah.

Ephesians 5:8; Isaiah 51:4; Proverbs 6:23

4. Yeshua lived faithfully according to YHWH's instruction, and 1 John calls those abiding in him to walk as he walked. The teaching therefore treats his Torah-observant life as the model, while each command's actual role and circumstances still govern its application.

Ephesians 5:1; 1 John 2:1–6

5. Acts 15 lists four prohibitions and says Moses is read every Sabbath. The teaching interprets these as initial changes followed by ongoing Torah learning. Its pagan-worship background and discipleship sequence explain its reading, but are not fully spelled out in the decree.

Acts 15:19–21

6. If sin is lawlessness, learning YHWH's instruction helps believers turn from sin and imitate Yeshua. First John 2 joins that call with his advocacy when believers stumble. The response is repentance and continuing growth, with confidence grounded in abiding in him.

1 John 3:4; 2:1–6,28

Put it into practice

Choose one response to the passages you studied. What will you do, and when will you revisit it? Share only what you are comfortable sharing.