

# Walking with Jesus: an Introduction

by

Elder Wilfred Graves Jr., Ph.D.

## **INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Now that you have received salvation and made a public declaration of your faith through baptism, you must now walk with the Lord continually. Walking with Jesus (i.e., living for Jesus) requires commitment and personal discipline. Jesus desires for each of us to listen to and obey his teachings, to trust him unconditionally, and to become more like him in our character and actions. Only by giving the Lord the time and attention he deserves will we become fully devoted Christ followers. I would like to suggest seven things that will help you begin this important journey.

1. Read the Bible daily.
2. Develop a regular routine of prayer, thanksgiving, and praise.
3. Attend worship services each week.
4. Get involved in church activities.
5. Surround yourself with people who will encourage you to follow Jesus.
6. Share your faith with others and serve your community.
7. Take advantage of every opportunity you can to learn and grow.

## **STEP 1: READ YOUR BIBLE**

Buy a good study Bible and read it regularly and carefully. In fact, you should cultivate the habit of reading, repeating, memorizing, and reciting Scripture every day. If you do not understand what you are reading, consult the commentary notes at the bottom of the page in your study Bible or ask your pastor or other Bible teacher for help.

## **STEP 2: PRAYER**

Prayer is communication with God. Believers should talk to the Lord each day. Instead of beginning your prayer time with a laundry list of requests, consider praising God and thanking him for what he is doing in your life and in the world. After you have given him the honor he deserves, then feel free to present your petitions to him.

## **STEP 3: WORSHIP SERVICES**

To worship is to adore, serve, and devote oneself completely to God. One way to do this is to attend worship services on Sundays and during the week. These public gatherings honor the Lord, strengthen his people, and hold them accountable to others.

## **STEP 4: CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

A healthy church provides wonderful worship experiences but also offers opportunities for involvement beyond the main Sunday gatherings. I encourage you to take advantage of the many weekly activities (Bible studies, youth groups, outreach ministries, etc.) offered by the church.

**STEP 5: SURROUND YOURSELF WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE**

Your spiritual growth will occur only when you are in a nurturing environment. For this reason, you should always surround yourself with people who love the Lord and who will encourage you to follow Jesus. You can also be someone who encourages others to be Christ followers themselves.

**STEP 6: SHARE YOUR FAITH AND SERVE OTHERS**

You should regularly share your faith with others. Tell other people about your salvation and your baptism. Tell them how the Lord has been good to you. Also, find opportunities to lovingly meet the needs of others. Every believer has a gift or ability that will be a blessing to other people.

**STEP 7: KEEP LEARNING AND KEEP GROWING**

Take advantage of every opportunity you can to learn and grow. West Angeles Church offers in-person and online Sunday school classes; weekly Bible studies (Through the Bible, Three Bible Teachers, etc.); events for children, youth, and young adults; opportunities for outreach, training for ministry; and more.

**CONNECT WITH WEST ANGELES CHURCH**

There are several simple ways to connect with the church:

Email: [hello@westa.org](mailto:hello@westa.org)

Phone: (323) 733 – 8300

**CONTACT DR. WILFRED GRAVES:**

To connect with Dr. Wilfred Graves, please call the main church number or send an email directly to him at [wgraves@westa.org](mailto:wgraves@westa.org).

Dr. Graves would also like to invite you to attend the “Three Bible Teachers” online class, which occurs periodically on Zoom. To watch past sessions of this unique learning experience, please visit: <https://ThreeBibleTeachers.com>. To join the class, please contact Dr. Graves by email or connect to the class from the website.