



Walk the World Youth Guide

Get out and about in your neighbourhood
to pray, connect, learn, have fun and
explore belonging, identity and purpose

This guide has been created for
youth aged 12-18.



Welcome to the Youth Guide for Walk the World 2022.

This guide has been written by Rachel Stevens, Baptist Mission Australia's Next Generation Specialist. It has been created to engage youth in prayer for both their own communities and our intercultural teams as they serve around the world.

To facilitate interactive prayer time, this guide is separated into three areas of prayer: **Belonging, Identity and Purpose**. These have come of the book 'Three Big Questions That Change Every Teenager' by Kara E. Powell and Brad Griffin. The research in this book points to these three issues as key in the formation of teenagers.

Understanding how God fits into these three areas is important for all of us, whether in Australia or serving globally. Every follower of Jesus needs to have their purpose, identity and belonging found in being a child of God, a part of the Church (His body) and a part of His reconciliation action plan.

Our hope is that these activities will help open conversations with your youth around belonging, identity and purpose, as well as mission, prayer, community and intercultural engagement.

This is meant to be an adaptable resource. The key thing is that you and your youth engage with God, so take this guide and use it in any way that enables you to do that.



For more Walk the World resources, visit:
www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/WalktheWorld



What is the Walk the World Youth Guide?

This is an interactive prayer guide for youth. It is a resource of Walk the World, a community prayer event run by Baptist Mission Australia. Essentially, this guide facilitates a prayer walk with activities along the way.

Who is it for?

The Walk the World Youth Guide has been created for the weekly session of a church youth group (e.g. on Friday nights). However, it can be adapted for small groups, younger children or other contexts.

How long does it take?

Following the full guide will take around three hours. However, you can do each of the three sections as standalone guides (around one hour each) or isolate individual activities of Bible discussion questions (10-45 minutes each).

Can we run the activities indoors?

The guide has been written anticipating that it will be run in an outdoor setting. However, it is possible to run the activities indoors. If possible, try to do each section in a different space within your church. If you have a large group, you could split up into three groups and have them move through stations around your building.

It a standalone resource?

This resource is part of the Walk the World prayer event. It can be used as a standalone resource, but it will be most meaningful in conjunction with the other Walk the World resources, especially if the whole church gets involved. We pray it's a rich community building time for your congregation.

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A Place of Belonging

Location

An oval or open space to play Cat and Mouse and sit down to create the plaited artwork.

Resources Needed

- » Twine, wool, string and ribbons in different thickness, textures and colours
- » Scissors to cut string
- » For a **group** artwork: A canvas, pinboard or woodboard and something to adhere the plaits onto it (i.e. hot glue gun or pins)
- » For a **group** artwork: A map of your local city council, neighbourhood or city that can be traced onto your board. Or a map of the world that can be traced onto your board.
- » Bibles or printed copies of verses

Introduction

Leader Shares: “God created us for relationship. Relationship with Him, each other and creation itself. Being in community is core to who we are, and it is a beautiful thing to invite others into.

We see this time and time again in the Gospels when we read of people experiencing God through the church living out His loving care, justice and compassion.

However history also shows us what happens when the church community becomes a place of exclusion, judgement and cliqueness.

When this happens, we cease to embody the character of Christ and start embodying the culture around us. After many experiences of being excluded from Christian community in India, Gandhi said, ‘I like your Christ, but I do not like your Christians, they are nothing like your Christ.’ ”

Game: Cat and Mouse

20 minutes

Aim: To help the group think about what it’s like to be left out and shunned by a community. After a few rounds of the game, ask the debrief questions and discuss the experience as a group before moving on.

If your group is large, you can split into age groups and play multiple games at once.

Instructions

1. Assign two volunteers as the cat and the mouse. All other players form a circle and hold hands.
2. The mouse starts inside the circle and the cat starts outside the circle.
3. The mouse is trying to avoid the cat, and the cat is trying to catch the mouse. The cat catches the mouse by tapping their back or shoulders.
4. The mouse weaves under the arms of the circle players to dart in and out of the circle. They cannot stay inside for more than 10 seconds.

5. The cat cannot come into the circle but can reach into the circle to tap the mouse.
6. The players in the circle are trying to help the mouse stay free. They do this by lifting their arms up and down to allow the mouse to enter or exit the circle, and obstruct the cat. They cannot move their feet or body, only their arms.
7. The game ends after three minutes, or when the mouse is caught (whichever comes first).
8. The cat wins if they catch the mouse, the mouse wins if they can stay free.

Debrief questions

1. How did it feel being the cat?
2. How did it feel being the mouse?
3. How did those in the circle feel about stopping the cat? What about helping the mouse?
5. When new people join our group, do you think they feel more like the cat or the mouse?

Key points to pull out

- » The mouse would have felt helped, supported, included and wanted.
- » The cat would have felt annoyed, frustrated, alone and left out.
- » The people in the circle may have mixed emotions. Try to understand where the group is at and chat through whatever emotions or comments come out.
- » Do the youth feel that they are an open group who welcomes new people? This is not a space to be judgemental but to have a think about the strengths and challenges of group so you can be more self-aware and pray for God's leading.

Bible Passages and Reflection Questions

15mins

Break up into small groups, read Acts 4:32-37 and Luke 19:1-10, then discuss these questions.

1. What did godly Christian community look and feel like?
2. What happened when outsiders experienced this?
3. What were the key features of the community?
4. What barriers did, or could, get in the way of believers sharing God's love with each other and their community?

Key Points to pull out:

- » The communities were loving, compassionate, just, supportive, inclusive, open to all.
- » People found belonging *before* they believed
- » When godly Christian community is extended, people are added to the church family.
- » People experience who God is by experiencing His love though His church.

- » This can be uncomfortable, as we will often be called to invite in difficult, different and excluded people.
- » We may need to break down cultural, social, racial, financial or religious barriers to enable others to feel safe and welcome in our community.

Prayer Activity: Plaited Artwork

20mins

Aim: To encourage people to pray while creating a woven plait. The connection is that we want to keep weaving people into God's family.

Each string woven in is different, but all are beautiful and make the weaving more complete by their presence. Each string is a deliberate choice, just as allowing room for others in our community must be intentional.

Instructions:

1. Invite each person to choose the string or wool that they want to plait with.

2. As needed, teach people how to plait. (YouTube tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Y3Nq06x_64). Those who know more complicated methods are welcome to use them.
3. Either as you plait, or after, pray for your community and the world. Prayer points on page 9.

Stop here for individual pieces, continue on for group artwork.

4. Trace the chosen map onto the chosen board.
5. Gather the finished plaits and adhere along the line of the traced map. If you have enough plaits, you can also fill in the shape of the map. The outline can take the shape of your local neighbourhood, council area, country you are praying for, etc.
6. (Optional) Add text to your artwork that has meaning for your group. E.g. "We love Townsville!" or "Your Kingdom come in Townsville."

Prayer Points:

- » Pray that God would help you, your community and your intercultural team members around the world to share His love through word and deed.
- » Pray that God would be drawing people to Himself through your church community. Pray for courage in reaching out with the hope of Jesus and courage to welcome new people.
- » Pray for communities around the world to be wholistically transformed by the good news of Jesus.
- » Pray for intercultural team members to experience God's protection, leading, strength and love as they serve around the world.
- » Pray for God's Spirit to go before us and help us overcome the barriers which hinder Jesus being known here and overseas.

Group Artwork Example



The above artwork was created by weaving together three long plaits. We followed an outline and pinned the plaits in place on the pin board. *We used three long plaits for our artwork, but yours can incorporate lots of short plaits of different colours.*

Then we added the text, 'Your Kingdom Come'. You may choose to add more specific text or no text.

Finding our Identity in God

Location

Somewhere public where you can draw or write on the ground. A quiet footpath or your church car park would be perfect.

Resources Needed

- » Chalk in different colours
- » Bibles or printed copies of verses
- » Printed copies of descriptions of who we are in Christ (page 12)

Introduction

Leader shares: “It can be easy to forget where our identity lies. When our identity is found in things of the world, rather than who we are in God, our priorities and purpose begin to change.”

Bible passage and reflection questions

20 mins

Leader shares: “I’m going to read out a list of descriptions of who followers of Jesus are. I want you to sit on your own and think about each one as I read it out.

As I read it out have these questions in mind which we will talk about later:

1. Which ones resonate with you the most, and why?
2. Which ones are the hardest to believe, and why?
3. Which ones do our culture push back against the most?
4. Which ones offer the most hope to people in our culture?”

Read through the descriptions, then explore the questions in small groups.

Descriptions of who we are in Christ:

- » We have the right to come boldly before the throne of God to find mercy and grace (Hebrews 4:16)
- » We have been saved and set apart according to God’s doing (1 Timothy 1:9 / Titus 3:5)
- » We are fellow citizens with the rest of God’s family (Ephesians 2:19)
- » We are chosen by God, holy and dearly loved (Colossians 3:12 / 1 Thessalonian 1:4)
- » We are aliens and strangers in this world in which we temporarily live (1 Peter 2:11)
- » We have been justified, completely forgiven and made righteous (Romans 5:1)
- » We died with Christ and died to the power of sin’s rule over our lives (Romans 6:1-6)
- » We are free from condemnation forever (Romans 8:1)
- » We may approach God with boldness, freedom and confidence (Ephesians 3:12)
- » We are the salt of the Earth (Matthew 5:13)
- » We are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14)
- » We are children of God (John 1:12)
- » We are Christ’s friends (John 15:15)
- » We are joint heirs with Christ, sharing His inheritance with Him (Romans 8:17)
- » We are a temple - a dwelling place - of God. His Spirit dwells in us (1 Corinthians 3:16 & 6:19)
- » We are members of Christ’s body (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- » We have died, we no longer live for ourselves but for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14)
- » We have direct access to God through the Spirit (Ephesians 2:18)
- » We have been made complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10)

Prayer Activity: Footpath Joy

20mins

Aim: The aim of this prayer activity is to transform a public space with kind words and images that speak of the truth of humanity's identity in God.

Using chalk, draw and write on the footpath or car park. Think about how you can bring life, joy, hope and creativity into the space for your community to enjoy.

You may choose to create one large piece as a group, or smaller individual pieces.

Ideas:

- » Use bright colours and fun patterns to create a joyful space
- » Write out life-filled verses to encourage others
- » Write key words that you are praying over your community (i.e. Peace, Hope, Respect, Love, etc.)
- » Draw your community... the people in it, the main street, the church, the school, the playground, to build pride and love for the place you live in.

Things to keep in mind:

- » The end result should be a public space filled with the beauty and lyrical reality of who God created us to be. It should focus on uplifting and encouraging words and visuals.
- » Stay away from controversial or judgemental images or phrases. It should not be confronting but encouraging for those who come across it.
- » Make sure that you are not damaging property.
- » If you aren't sure, call the council, school or place of business to ask for permission first.

Pray as you are creating or after you have finished.

Prayer Points:

- » **Yourselves:** Pray that you would be secure in who you are in Christ. Pray about the descriptions that you found difficult to accept and ask God to help you embrace them.
- » **Your Friends:** Pray for people you know who are not yet believers, pray that God would help you to show them their value and worth as a person made in the image of God.
- » **Intercultural Teams:** Pray that all our team members would be secure in who they are in Christ. Pray that if there are areas that they are struggling with, that God will meet them in those places and give them peace, love and understanding.
- » **Their Friends:** Pray for the people our intercultural teams are seeking to reach out to. Pray for God's Spirit to open opportunities for rich faith conversations where Jesus can be shared.

Being Driven by God's Purpose

Location

Somewhere with space, good light and opportunity for you to do the final activity you choose. (e.g. Litter clean up or tree planting.)

Resources Needed

- » Bibles or printed out passages
- » Fake tealight candle or glow stick for each person
- » Depending on what final activity you choose, you will need the following:
 - » Tree planting – saplings, shovels, spades, compost, water, stakes
 - » Clean up – garbage bags for rubbish, tongs, gloves
 - » Another activity which you choose! Get the items you need to make it happen.

Introduction

Leader shares: “In a world that is jam packed with distraction, it can be easy to forget the purpose in which we live, move and find our being.

In this set of activities, we are going to focus on the purpose God has called us to... His ministry of reconciliation.

The whole Bible is a rescue plan of a God who desperately wants to restore what was broken in the Fall. That being, our relationship with Him, each other and creation itself.

As God's people, we have been invited into this beautiful plan to bring about new creation, where we *will* have restored relationship with God, each other and creation. It's a purpose that's exciting, challenging and hope filled.”

Bible passage and reflection questions

15 mins

Break into small groups to read the following passages and discuss the questions.

Passages

- » 2 Corinthians 5:11
- » 2 Corinthians 18-20
- » Romans 8:18-25
- » Revelation 21:1-7

Questions

1. What purpose or ministry are we called to?
2. Who's included in this purpose?
3. What is the end goal of this purpose?
4. What is our part? What is God's part?
5. How do you feel about being invited into this purpose?
6. What kind of hope does this offer people in our community, and in the whole world?

Key points to pull out:

- » To reconcile all creation to God
- » This reconciliation includes: Us to God, us to each other and us to creation.
- » This will not be complete until Jesus returns.
- » When it is complete, we will be in right relationship with God, each other and creation. This will look like a world with no more suffering, death, pain and hate for each other.
- » This is the hope we offer the world: That the world as it is, is not all there is. New creation is the hope of the Christian faith, and our purpose is to join with God in making this happen.

Prayer Activity: God, Others, Creation

55mins

This activity is split into three activities, giving participants the opportunity to actively reflect on reconciling their relationship with God, others and creation.

1. Relationship with God

10 mins

Aim: To help youth think about themselves and their relationship with God, while also praying for intercultural team members and their relationship with God.

Instructions

1. Give each of the participants a fake tealight candle or glow stick. Invite them to find a place on their own. They can either close their eyes or look at the world around them (not others).
2. Read out Psalm 139:1-18 and ask them to reflect on it. As they do, encourage them to focus on the light in their hands and remember the line that “darkness is as light to you.”

God has come to reconcile them, no matter how far away they might feel or how dark the world might seem.

3. Invite them to pray for themselves, that God would help them remember that He has saved them, loves them and is always with them.
4. Then invite them to pray the same for an intercultural team member. If your church partners with a particular team or ministry, then share about this now.

2. Relationship with Others

15mins

Aim: To encourage youth to think outside themselves and open their hearts to the world around them and beyond. Also, to encourage them to seek God in their own relationships.

Instructions: In small groups, pairs or triplets, invite people to walk up and down local streets to pray. They may choose to pray out loud or silently.

Prayer Points:

Pray the following points for the people in the homes you walk past, yourselves and your friends.

- » **Peace:** Pray for homes to be places of safety, peace and love. Pray for relationships to be free from conflict, harrassment or abuse. Pray for children to thrive in loving homes.
- » **Openness:** Pray for God’s Spirit to be at work in people’s hearts. Pray for your friends to be open to hear the good news of Jesus.
- » **Healing:** Pray for emotional, physical and relational healing for those who are suffering. Pray for reconciliation in your life. Lift up any fractured relationships and pray for healing.
- » **Believing Friends:** Pray that God would place followers of Jesus in the lives of seekers. Pray that you would have the courage to be that believing friend.

3. Relationship with creation

30 mins

Aim: Often we can just focus on reconciling ourselves to God and others. But in the Fall, the ground was also cursed by our actions and continues to be impacted by our selfish choices.

The aim of this activity is to be a part of creation care through doing something that promotes healing for creation.

Instructions

1. Choose one of the creation care activities mentioned on page 15, or create your own. Ideas include: Planting trees, picking up rubbish, watering plants, weeding or even making a meal out of food that would have been wasted.
2. As you do this, pray for yourselves, as individuals and collectively to join with God in this critical part of restoration.
3. Invite leaders to facilitate conversations about anything that has come up during your session together. Invite the youth to ask questions too or share any reflections they have had throughout your time together.

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