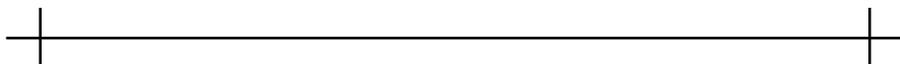


#### 4. "A place near your altar" Psalm 84:1-4

"How lovely is your dwelling-place, O LORD Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young - a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you."

**Focus:** Praise the Lord for the blessings that come with simply being close to Him. Ask Him to renew within you a deep desire to linger repeatedly in His presence, and spend time now worshipping the living Lord Almighty, our God and King.



**The Walk** is a ministry of The Dunamis Fellowship.



It is developed by **Presbyterian-Reformed Ministries International**, based at the *Community of the Cross: A Place of Encounter with Jesus Christ* P.O. Box 429, Black Mountain, NC 286711 USA  
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In the UK **The Walk** is offered by **The Dunamis Fellowship in Britain & Ireland**, in partnership with GEAR (*The Group for Evangelism And Renewal in the United Reformed Church*).

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# The Walk of Encounter with Jesus Christ



## Stillness

# Encountering Jesus Christ

In prayer, bring yourself into the presence of Jesus and ask, "Lord, speak to me through your word." Linger on each verse for as long as the Holy Spirit invites you to, prayerfully reflecting on the texts, listening to what the Lord says, and speaking with him. When the time is right, move to a new location and go on to the next step.

## 1. "What is better" Luke 10:39-42

"Mary ...sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

**Focus:** What are the many tasks which fill your life and, by keeping you busy, also keep you from sitting at the Lord's feet? Acknowledge these to the Lord, and ask him to liberate you from all other distractions so that you may spend this time paying attention to him. This time is a precious and privileged gift - receive it with gladness, and quieten your soul in his presence.

## 2. "A gentle whisper" 1 Kings 19:11-13

"The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

**Focus:** Elijah had seen fire fall from heaven, and later retreated under life-threatening pressure. Thank God that He is both powerful and gentle, and give thanks for the ways that you have seen Him at work in the past. Ask Him to speak to you today in whatever way pleases Him, and pray also for wisdom not to limit the ways in which you listen to His voice.

## 3. "They had been with Jesus" Acts 4:13-14

"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say."

**Focus:** Peter and John's ministry had its roots in their relationship with Jesus. Thank God that it is not intellectual cleverness but intimacy with Jesus that really matters. How much of the ministry that you exercise flows out of time that has been spent in the presence of Jesus?