

Impactus

MOVE

STUDY GUIDE



Introduction

**For in Him we live and move and have our being.
— Acts 17:28 NIV**

When a football team's offensive line huddles up before a play, it's a crucial time for the guys to make a plan. They get their marching orders, discuss the formation and logistics, and ensure everyone is on the same page.

But they don't stay there talking forever. Eventually, the team says "Break!" and they move out into formation to execute the play, hopefully flawlessly.

There's nothing wrong with the huddle; it's important to discuss and form plans. But the talk ultimately has to move into action, or the guys aren't doing what they were built for.

If we're not careful, a man's spiritual journey can feel a lot like this. There can be a lot of talk without a lot of movement.

But God is a God of motion, and He created man in His image to take action in this world, moving forward into his calling with the Lord at his side, fulfilling all that God has called him to.

Christianity is not a spectator sport; it is a life of participation and movement. The temptation for men to settle for comfort and complacency rather than move forward in their spiritual lives, homes, or work is real. In a distracted, divided, and spiritually open cultural moment, men of God must move with focus, conviction, and purpose.

Based on the 2026-2027 Impactus conference titled MOVE, this 4-week study calls men to stop sitting, receive God's grace, and take their next faithful step in their purpose. MOVE is an invitation for men to step into God's work, step up into their God-given identity and calling, and step out into God's mission in the world.

Week One: Made to Move

God is not distant, passive, or uninvolved; God moves.

Scripture Reading: Acts 17:22-28; Genesis 1:1-2;
Genesis 1:27-28; John 1:9-14

Ancient ideas of various gods typically involved a god sitting on a throne in some far-off spiritual realm. These gods were often impassive, somewhat indifferent to the plights of men on earth. While they might engage and act in the world in various ways, they often stayed at a distance.

It was up to humanity to pray, bow, and offer up sacrifices in the vain hope that their actions would draw them closer to the gods they worshiped. People needed to approach them, seeking and striving for their approval as they sought the gods' blessing on earth.

Scripture paints a very different picture of our God.

The LORD of Heaven and earth indeed sits on a throne of glory, but from the very beginning of Creation, He has been actively moving in this world. Our God builds, creates, initiates, and draws near—He interacts constantly with His people and is always in motion, moving towards us and moving in us to lead us into His plans and purposes.

This is never more clear than in Christ, where, because of His great love for us, God literally moved from Heaven to earth and walked among us, showing us the perfect way to live, revealing the nature of the Father, and ultimately dying on the Cross for our sins and rising to life to bring us into eternal life with Him.

Our God is always moving, and we are men made in His image—we were made to move, too. We are at our best when we are moving in partnership with Him.

Week One: Made to Move

- 1.** Based on the Scripture reading, what do these passages teach us about God's movement in this world?

- 2.** Why do you think God is so active? What motivates Him?

- 3.** Where have you witnessed God "moving" in your life?

- 4.** What does it mean to be men who are "moving" with God in our lives?

- 5.** How can we get there?

Week One: Notes

Week Two: God Moves First

We don't convince God to come near; He always makes the first move.

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Luke 19:1-10;
Romans 5:6-8; 1 John 4:9-10

In May 1940, more than 300,000 British and Allied soldiers were trapped along the French coast after aggressive Nazi forces rapidly pushed through France. The troops were surrounded, exhausted, short on supplies, and facing the very real possibility of capture at best, and annihilation at worst. There was no obvious way out. Their backs were to the sea, the enemy was in front of them, and the English Channel stood between them and safety.

Then something incredible happened: help came to the rescue.

Called "Operation Dynamo," the British military organized an enormous evacuation across the Channel. Naval vessels were joined by hundreds of civilian boats—fishing boats, lifeboats, pleasure craft, and private vessels—that crossed to Dunkirk, France, and rapidly delivered the soldiers from danger.

The soldiers didn't have to escape their situation on their own. They never had to swim their way to safety. They didn't have to somehow prove themselves worthy of rescue. The boats came to them. The entire army was safely evacuated in one of the most impressive feats of the whole war.

It's a beautiful picture of God's work in this world, where, as we see from Genesis through Revelation, He is constantly on the move to create, sustain, and save His people.

We can easily imagine our relationship with God as though we're standing on the beach trying desperately to make our way toward Him: "If I try harder, become better, pray more, clean up my life, maybe God will act in my life." Men have a hard time turning off the part of our brain that wants to do something to make something happen.

But God didn't wait for us to make our way to Him; He made the first move toward us. He always does.

Week Two: God Moves First

1. Based on the above biblical passages, what do you notice about God's movement toward humanity?

2. How should these verses shape the way we view our Father in Heaven? What are some common misunderstandings about God that these passages challenge?

3. Why do you think men so easily assume that we have to work our way toward God before He will come toward us?

4. What makes it challenging for guys to simply receive God's love and grace as sons of a good Father, rather than feel like we need to earn them?

5. Can you think of a time when you look back and realize God was moving in your life, even if you didn't notice it at the time?

6. If God has already made the first move toward us, what does an appropriate response from us look like?

Week Two: Notes

Week Three: Men Move Too

God moves toward men so that men can move toward Him.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 63:1-5; John 15:5-8;
Philippians 3:12-14; Hebrews 10:19-22

Famous Christian author and apologist C.S. Lewis grew up in a Christian home but abandoned his faith as a teenager, eventually becoming an atheist. By his early thirties, he was deeply resistant to Christianity. Yet, over time, conversations with Christian friends (including fellow writers and thinkers J.R.R. Tolkien and Hugo Dyson), as well as his growing engagement with Christian literature, began to challenge his worldview.

What makes Lewis's story especially interesting is that he didn't feel like someone who was looking for God. In fact, he later described his conversion with characteristic humor, saying that when he finally surrendered to Jesus, he was the "most dejected and reluctant convert in all England."

In 1931, Lewis moved from atheism toward belief in God. A few years later, he embraced Christianity. Looking back, he came to see that God had been pursuing him long before Lewis realized he was pursuing God. The conversations, books, friendships, questions, and intellectual struggles that seemed disconnected at the time became part of a larger journey toward faith, as Lewis took steps toward the God who was revealing Himself to him.

Lewis's story illustrates an important truth for men: moving toward God doesn't always begin with certainty. Sometimes it begins simply with obedience; the willingness to take some faithful steps forward to follow Him.

You may still have questions. You may not have every answer. You may even have parts of your life you're reluctant to surrender. All these things are normal. But at some point, following Jesus means moving toward the One who has already moved toward you.

Week Three: Men Move Too

1. Read the Bible passages above. What does it look like for a man to hunger and thirst for God, as a deer thirsts for water?

2. What does moving *toward* God practically look like in a man's life?

3. What interferes with a man's desire for the Lord? What can get in the way of our seeking Him?

4. How can a man "remain" in Christ beyond Sunday mornings?

5. How do we make sure that our "seeking" doesn't just become mindless or routine work, where we are doing Christian things because we are "supposed" to?

6. What can men do when we're just not feeling excited about our spiritual journey?

Week Three: Notes

Week Four: Moving on Mission

God moves men from following Him to joining Him on His mission.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:18-20; John 20:21-22; Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 11:8-10

In 1785, British politician William Wilberforce experienced a profound Christian conversion. For a time, he seriously considered leaving politics altogether and pursuing a career in the ministry. But his friend John Newton, the former slave trader who had written the famous hymn Amazing Grace about his own conversion, encouraged Wilberforce to remain in Parliament and use his position to advance God's Kingdom in the nation.

Wilberforce eventually became convinced that his Christian faith required him to confront the British slave trade. In 1789, he introduced his first major parliamentary motion against the trade. It failed to pass.

The effort would take decades. Wilberforce faced fierce opposition, political setbacks, personal attacks, and repeated defeats. Yet he continued bringing the issue before Parliament. He didn't simply believe slavery was wrong; He allowed his biblical convictions to move him—and then kept moving when the first steps didn't produce immediate results.

After nearly 20 years of campaigning, Parliament passed the Slave Trade Act of 1807, which made trading slaves illegal. Wilberforce continued to advocate for the full abolition of slavery, which finally came to most of the British Empire in 1833, just days before his death.

Faith isn't merely intellectual agreement or even a connection with God; faith always calls us to motion. What might change if men stopped asking only, "What do I believe?" and instead also asked, "Where is my faith calling me to move?"

Week Four: Moving on Mission

1. Read the above Scripture passages. What does it mean for a man to live “on mission” as a follower of Jesus? How is that different from simply being a “good Christian”?

2. What tends to keep men focused on themselves rather than looking for ways God might want to work through them?

3. Think about the places God has already placed you—your family, workplace, neighborhood, friendships, church, community, etc. Where and how might He be inviting you to make a difference?

4. Have you ever taken a step of faith that moved you outside your comfort zone? What happened, and what did you learn from it?

5. What would it look like for your faith to become more visible in the way you spend your time, use your gifts, treat people, or serve others?

6. If God is already at work around you, what is one step you could take this week to join Him?

Week Four: Notes



Check out more studies at:

Impactus.org/mens-ministry/small-group-studies