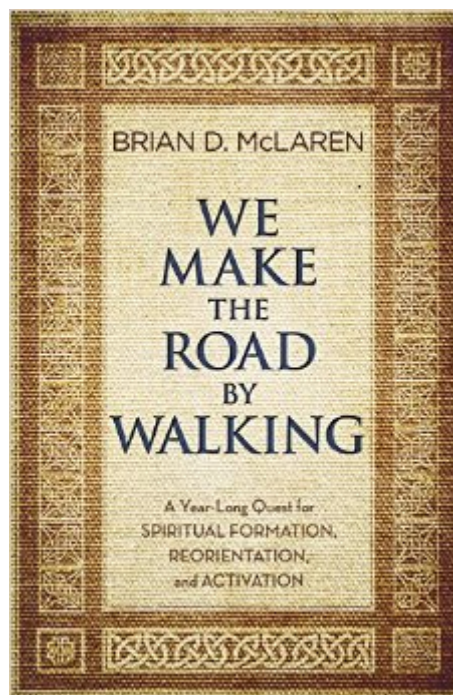


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# We Make The Road By Walking: A Year-Long Quest For Spiritual Formation, Reorientation, And Activation



## Synopsis

From critically acclaimed author Brian McLaren comes a brilliant retelling of the biblical story and a thrilling reintroduction to Christian faith. This book offers everything you need to explore what a difference an honest, living, growing faith can make in our world today. It also puts tools in your hands to create a life-changing learning community in any home, restaurant, or other welcoming space. The fifty-two (plus a few) weekly readings can each be read aloud in 10 to 12 minutes and offer a simple curriculum of insightful reflections and transformative practices. Organized around the traditional church year, these readings give an overview of the whole Bible and guide an individual or a group of friends through a year of rich study, interactive learning, and personal growth. Perfect for home churches, congregations, classes, or individual study, each reading invites you to

Cultivate an honest, intelligent understanding of the Bible and of Christian faith in 21st century

Engage with discussion questions designed to challenge, stimulate, and encourage

Reimagine what it means to live joyfully and responsibly in today's world as agents of God's justice, creativity, and peace

If you're seeking a fresh way to experience and practice your faith, if you're a long-term Christian seeking new vitality, or if you feel out of place in traditional church circles, this book will inspire and activate you in your spiritual journey.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I gave this review a lot of thought. At first, I was going to rate this book three stars, but after much consideration I think four stars is more accurate. I want to point out at the outset that I am not a

liberal Christian, but I think a lot of great ideas have come out of that camp, and a lot of good ideas have come out of the conservative camp as well. The risks of both are essentially that extreme liberalism says there is nothing sacred enough that deserves our defense, and extreme conservatism says nothing we have done in the past is worth changing. I went into this book knowing it was more on the liberal side of things because I like to hear everyone's perspectives. With that being said, McLaren and I agree on most of his talking points. I found his assessment of the poor in our societies, the gross injustices and abuses that we as Christians should be taking an honest look at, to be valuable. He obviously is a thoughtful and deeply engaged Christian man. The points I disagreed with him on are centered mostly around his uncompromising adherence to liberation theology and nonviolence. Again, much good has come from liberation theology and nonviolence, but I find that the constant, unrelenting use of liberation theology as a filter to promote a heavily politicized (read: polarized) Christianity to be unpalatable. Such filtering feels, at times, like a hijacking, as if liberation theology's proponents would like to force their brand of Christianity. I tend to be simplistic in my own personal faith, avoiding dogma and doctrines, preferring to do Greek and Hebrew close word studies, and prayerfully come to my own conclusions about things. Along that vein, I don't think Jesus was a socialist or a Democrat, nor was he a capitalist or a Republican.

Brian's books have been cool water to my soul as I've journeyed through my Christian faith. *We Make the Road by Walking* does the same. When I was a young pastor in the evangelical church, questioning, doubting, struggling in my faith *A New Kind of Christian* lit the way through my very dark valley. This was followed by more joyous years of discovery and books like *The Adventures of Missing The Point* and *A Generous Orthodoxy*. These books challenged me into deeper wonder, bolder curiosity, and called me to keep walking, keep seeking, keep uncovering the God that was all around me. I have come to Brian's new book *We Make the Road by Walking* nearly ten years after picking up the first. I have been voyaging a long but beautifully profound road and Brian's books have met me at every corner. This book comes at a perfect time for the Church, Society and for me personally. *We Make the Road by Walking* is a traveler's guide that we can use together as friends, families, and communities, that grants each pilgrim the freedom to make their own way, together. Brian provides a complex, deeply biblical narrative theology that starts with creation and genesis and treks through the entirety of the Bible. *We Make the Road by Walking* challenges us to read the text aloud in large sections, to draw connections through the beginning, middle, and end, to trace meta-narratives that weave their way along the path, and as we find ourselves, our neighbors and our enemies in the text to draw deeply on the connections we

make individually and communally. We Make the Road by Walking is Brianâ€™s one year lectionary, his comprehensive biblical narrative theology, his guide to communities of seekers, questioners, vagabonds, doubters, and free agents.

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