



FOLLOWING JESUS

Following Jesus – Week 1 Mark 8:34-37; Matt 4:18-22 – August 6, 2023

Allow God to speak to you through his written Word. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow, and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you need to use all the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

KNOW (Build Relationships)

1. If you could instantly become an expert at any hobby or skill, what would you choose? What might you miss out on by skipping the learning phase of becoming skilled at that activity?
2. Share a brief personal experience where you felt inspired to follow someone or something. How did that experience impact you?
3. How did you initially hear about Jesus and His teachings? What motivated you to start your journey of following Him?
4. Imagine you had to explain the difference between being a "fan" and being a "follower" of Jesus to someone who has never heard these terms. How would you do it?
5. If you could choose any biblical character to have a conversation with about following Jesus, who would it be and why?
6. What's one aspect of Jesus' life or teaching that you find particularly inspiring or challenging when it comes to following Him wholeheartedly?
7. Think about a time when you had to make a difficult choice between following Jesus and conforming to the expectations of the world. What was that experience like?



GROW: (Grow Spiritually)

1. Read Mark 8:34-37. What do you think it means to deny yourself and take up your cross daily to follow Jesus? What might this look like practically in your life?
2. Read Matthew 4:18-22. What stood out to you about how the disciples responded immediately to Jesus' call? How have you seen God call you to follow Him?
3. Jesus said that following Him requires us to be "all in" and make Him our top priority above all else (Luke 14:25-35). What are some things that can compete for your devotion to Christ? How can you safeguard your heart?
4. In the sermon, we discussed counting the cost of following Jesus but also counting the reward. How have you experienced joy, purpose, and satisfaction in following Him? What encouragement does Revelation 21:1-7 provide?
5. Romans 12:1-2 reminds us that following Jesus transforms us and renews our mind. How have you seen God change your perspectives, priorities, and habits as you follow Him?
6. Hebrews 10:24-25 emphasizes the importance of community and gathering together as believers. How has being part of a church community helped you follow Jesus? How can you invest in others?
7. Matthew 4:18-22 depicts Jesus calling His disciples to leave their nets and follow Him. Can you think of other biblical instances where people left their comfort zones to follow God's calling?
8. Reflect on a time when you had to sacrifice something to follow Jesus. How did that experience affect your understanding of the rewards mentioned in these passages?
9. In your opinion, how can we practically deny ourselves while living in a modern world full of distractions and desires?
10. Reflect on the concept of finding one's life by losing it for Jesus' sake. Can you think of any historical figures who embodied this principle?



SHOW: (Live on Mission)

1. Who is someone you can invite to church or share your story and faith with this week?
2. Is there any sin, distraction, or idol you need to lay down or turn from in order to follow Jesus faithfully? How can this group help keep you accountable?
3. Are there areas in your life where you've been a "fan" rather than a "follower" of Christ? How can you start shifting your perspective?
4. What's one personal comfort or habit you're willing to give up in order to follow Jesus more closely? How might this action impact your spiritual journey?
5. Think about the current season of life you're in. How can you align your goals and decisions with the principles of Mark 8:34-37 and Matthew 4:18-22?



FOLLOWING JESUS

Following Jesus – Week 2 2 Peter 3:18; John 14:16-17 – August 13, 2023

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KNOW (Build Relationships)

1. What is the hardest thing you have ever done?
2. What does "following Jesus" mean to you personally, and how has it impacted your life so far?
3. Share a moment when you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit guiding you or comforting you.
4. How do you incorporate spiritual disciplines into your daily routine? Are there any that you find particularly helpful?
5. In what ways have you experienced God's grace and glory in your life recently?
6. Share a brief testimony of a time when you witnessed the power of following Jesus in someone else's life.
7. How do you balance the concept of God's grace (undeserved favor) and our efforts in your understanding of the Christian journey?
8. What's one aspect of your faith journey that you're currently seeking guidance or growth in?



GROW: (Grow Spiritually)

1. How does 2 Peter 3:18 encourage us to grow in our relationship with Christ? Can you think of other Bible verses that emphasize growth and maturity in faith?
2. Read and reflect on John 14:16-17. How does the promise of the Holy Spirit's presence impact your understanding of following Jesus?
3. Dallas Willard said, "Grace isn't opposed to effort, but it is opposed to earning." What do you think he meant by that? Do you find that concept easy or hard to live out?
4. How does the realization that our efforts are not about earning but about responding to grace affect your perspective on spiritual growth?
5. Dallas Willard's quote suggests that grace and effort aren't opposed. How do you strike a balance between relying on God's grace and actively engaging in spiritual disciplines?
6. How does Titus 2 provide practical guidance for us as we strive to follow Jesus in our daily lives?
7. Galatians 3:2 talks about receiving the Spirit by faith, not by works. How does this tie into the concept of following Jesus and relying on the Holy Spirit?
8. How does the realization that our efforts are not about earning but about responding to grace affect your perspective on spiritual growth?
9. Reflect on John 14:16-17. How does the promise of the Holy Spirit's presence impact your understanding of following Jesus?



SHOW: (Live on Mission)

1. Reflect on a specific area of your life where you've been striving in your own efforts. How can you surrender that area to God's grace and rely on His power instead?
2. Think of someone in your life who might be struggling to understand the balance between grace and effort. How can you share your insights and journey to help them?
3. How can this group pray for you this week in your walk with Jesus?



FOLLOWING JESUS

Following Jesus – Week 3

1 Corinthians 13:1-13; 2 Peter 1:5 – August 20, 2023

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KNOW (Build Relationships)

1. What causes spiritual stagnation in our lives?
2. Share about a time when you felt spiritually stagnant. What were the causes? How did you get out of that place?
3. What's one quality you admire in a spiritually mature Christian?
4. Describe a situation where you've seen or experienced spiritual growth in yourself or someone else.
5. What aspect of your faith journey are you currently wrestling with or seeking to understand better?
6. Share a memorable encounter where someone demonstrated Christ's love to you.
7. The sermon talked about the danger of seeking only knowledge or experience in our spiritual growth. How have you seen this play out in your own life or in the lives of others?



GROW: (Grow Spiritually)

1. How does 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 define and describe true Christian love? How does this love relate to spiritual maturity?
2. C.S. Lewis wrote, "To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken." How does this vulnerability in love align with the teachings of 1 Corinthians 13, especially verses 4-7?
3. In what ways does spiritual stagnation hinder our ability to express genuine love? (Reference 2 Peter 1:5)
4. Read 2 Peter 1:5-8. What steps does Peter give for spiritual growth? How are they connected to love?
5. Reflect on a time when you witnessed someone exhibiting the characteristics of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What impact did it have on you?
6. Reflect on Mother Teresa's words: "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." How does this approach contribute to our journey from spiritual stagnation to maturity, considering 1 Corinthians 13?
7. How do the qualities mentioned in 2 Peter 1:5 contribute to our journey from spiritual stagnation to maturity?
8. Consider a situation where love and patience were needed to overcome an obstacle in your spiritual growth. How did that experience lead to growth?
9. Why do you think Paul says all our spiritual gifts and acts of service are worthless without love?
10. How does consistently abiding in God's love help us to walk in love towards others? (John 15:9)



SHOW: (Live on Mission)

1. What's one specific area in your life where you can intentionally practice love as described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7?
2. What would it look like for our group to collectively exhibit the characteristics of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 to our community?
3. What commitment or goal can you set for yourself this week to actively move from spiritual stagnation towards maturity, using the principles from 1 Corinthians 13:1-13?
4. Spend a few minutes praying for each other to have the strength to walk in love.