



Week 5 – Follow Jesus, Influence Others

Jesus begins his official ministry by calling the first Disciples. We have a challenge to first follow Jesus and then use our life to influence others to become like Jesus.

Read Matthew 4:18-22. What Jesus is doing in this moment? What did Jesus say that was so captivating? How did the disciples respond? What does “follow me” and “fishers of men” mean?

Follow Jesus

Read John 1:35-42. This is a different account of Jesus calling the First disciples. What can this tell us about the hearts of the disciples? Why does John choose to explain the story in this way?

Read Luke 19:1-10. John 4:1-26. What do the stories of Jesus’ interaction with Zacchaeus and the Samaritan woman tell us about what it looks like to Follow Jesus? What are some other stories of Jesus’ interaction with people and how he called them to follow Him?

The disciples left everything to follow Jesus. **Read 1 King 19:19-21 and Acts 2:42-47.** How might this story of Elisha and the story of the early church parallel to that of the disciples in Matthew 4? Jesus later sends out disciples in **Matthew 10:1-15.** What do these 3 stories tell us about following Jesus?

Read Matthew 16:24-25 what does it mean to deny ourselves? How does **1 Peter 2:11** connect with this. Why is it important to deny ourselves in order to truly follow Jesus?

What role, if any, does the Bible, church, community, spiritual disciplines, personal time with God have as we strive to live out a relationship with Jesus?



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Why are metaphors used by Jesus so often? How can metaphors be effective in leading others to Christ? Can metaphors ever be used ineffectively? How?

Read Matthew 5:13-16. What does this passage (which comes very soon after Jesus calls the disciples) tell us about our influence as Christians? How is influencing others to become like Jesus a life long commitment?

Read Ephesians 2:10. 1 Corinthians 15:58. Philippians 2:13. Acts 4:13. What do these verses tell us about God using us to further His kingdom? Why do we doubt that we can be used by God to influence others to become like Jesus? What are some other examples of people that doubted their abilities to influence others? What can we learn from these examples?

Read 1 Peter 3:15. What does this verse tell us about our challenge to influence others to become like Christ? What it makes it difficult to “give a defense.” How do we balance defending our faith while also showing love to someone that might not agree?

Read Philippians 1:27. Colossians 4:5-6. 1 Timothy 3:14-15. 1 Peter 1:13-16. Ephesians 4:1. 1 Corinthians 12:12-26. How can our actions, words, or thoughts influence others (negatively or positively)? How can we use our actions, thoughts, voices to influence others to become like Christ? Why is it important to strive to live in accordance with the way God wants us to live?

Read Acts 28:31. 2 Timothy 1:6-7. Hebrews 10:19-25. What does it mean to have boldness because of our relationship with Jesus? What makes it difficult to live in boldness? What does it mean to be bold as we strive to influence others to become like Jesus?

Personal Reflection Questions:

1. What does “Follow Jesus” mean for you practically?
2. Are you making every effort to influence others to become like Jesus? How so?

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