



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week 1

QUESTION 1

Twenty-one times, Jesus uses the phrase "follow me." The phrase appears 40 times in context in the gospels. Twice, Jesus gives the invitation to follow Him after His resurrection. Those who accept Christ are called to follow Him. What does it mean to you personally to follow Jesus?

QUESTION 2

In John 10, Jesus calls Himself the good shepherd. His followers are seen as His sheep. Jesus says: **John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.** Take a moment to discuss this verse. What do you think Jesus was teaching us?

John 10:27 introduces the first principle of following Jesus: **He leads; we listen.** If we are to follow Him, we must listen to His voice and follow His lead. There are many ways Jesus leads us. Share a story of a time when you heard Jesus's voice and followed His lead.

QUESTION 3

Take a moment to consider these words of Jesus: **John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.** How does the core message of this verse apply directly to your life today?

John 14:27 introduces the second principle of following Jesus: **His pace leads to peace.** If we are following Jesus, He sets the rhythm of our lives. Living at His pace brings us peace. Take a moment to consider your life's pace. Please share with your group anything from the animal kingdom that you think best represents the pace of your life. Of course, you could choose a tortoise or a jackrabbit, but get creative and then explain why that animal is the best description of your current pace of life.

Is Jesus leading you to alter your pace of life?

How might you follow His pace?

QUESTION 4

In **Mark 1:17**, Jesus calls Peter and his brother Andrew to follow Him. When He does, He reveals something important. **Mark 1:17 And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”** When we follow Jesus, there is a destination. Jesus led Peter and Andrew to fundamental changes in their lives and mission. This is the third principle of following Jesus: Jesus will lead us to a purposeful destination. Please share with your group one destination that you know Jesus has led you to in your life.

Jesus is guiding us toward a meaningful destination. All we need to do is trust Him and follow His lead. For some, He is guiding us to healing. Jesus desires to mend broken hearts. He may bring you into a season where you can heal from past wounds. For others, He may lead us to a new mission or an opportunity to serve. Jesus is guiding us to grow and develop as His followers, and He’s leading us to opportunities to impact others and help Him transform their lives. Has Jesus ever guided you into a season of healing? Has He ever led you to a new chance to serve and influence others for Him? If so, share that story with your group and explain how it affected you.

QUESTION 5

The fifth principle of following Jesus reminds us that it is difficult and will involve sacrifice and surrender. Jesus said: **Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”** To follow Him means that He must lead; we must surrender to Him and let Him lead us. Following Jesus calls us to continual repentance - constantly recognizing that our ways are not His ways and surrendering to follow Him. What do you think of the phrase continual repentance?

David Platt says this about repentance. *“Fundamentally, repentance involves renouncing a former way of life in favor of a new way of life. When we become followers of Jesus, we make a decisive break with an old way of living and take a decisive turn to a new way of life. Possessions and positions are no longer our priorities. Comfort and security are no longer our concerns. Safety is no longer our goal because self is no longer our God.”* What do you make of this quote?