



Following JESUS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week 2: He Leads, We Listen

QUESTION 1

Last weekend, we started a new sermon series on following Jesus. In the first week, we outlined five principles for following Him:

1. He leads; we listen.
2. His pace leads to peace.
3. Jesus is guiding us with purpose toward a destination.
4. When we follow Jesus, we are never alone.
5. Following Him requires ongoing repentance or daily surrender.

Take a moment to discuss these as a group. Be sure to share which one stands out to you as something you truly need in your life right now. Also, consider which of these is the easiest to understand and live out and which might be the hardest for you.

QUESTION 2

This weekend, we focused on the first principle of following Jesus: He leads; we listen. To fully understand this principle, we spent some time in **John chapter 10**. One of the key verses was

John 10:14: “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.”

Understanding Jesus as a Shepherd is an excellent way to grasp this first principle of following Him. Shepherd and author Philip Keller shares this insight: *“There is a beautiful relationship between the shepherd and the sheep. One of dependence and care. Shepherds move forward at the head of the flock, and the sheep follow because they know and trust the shepherd. Shepherds lead with care for the flock.”* The truth is, shepherds lead; sheep follow. Jesus, our good shepherd, longs to lead us.

What do you think are the benefits of allowing Jesus to lead your life? What are some of the difficulties involved in allowing Jesus to lead your life?

Tell the story of a time when you submitted to Jesus' leadership, and things went better than you could imagine.

QUESTION 3

The book of Revelation continues the theme of Jesus being our Shepherd. **Revelation 7:17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.** Hardships, adversity, and suffering are unavoidable in this life. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, longs to lead you to a place of healing and restore your soul. We see this in **Psalms 23. Psalm 23:1-2 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.**

Take a few moments to openly share some of the hardships, suffering, and adversity you are currently facing.

Also, discuss how you might allow Jesus to lead you to a place where He can restore your soul. In this, tell a story of a time when Jesus truly did renew and restore your soul.

QUESTION 4

Again, the first principle of following Jesus is: He leads; we listen. It is important for us to ensure that Jesus is leading our lives. It is also essential that we learn to listen to His voice; it will be especially difficult to follow His lead if we can't discern His voice. Jesus teaches in John chapter 10 that His sheep know His voice. **John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.** There are many ways that we discern the voice of Jesus. One of those ways is through the Bible, God's word. Another is through the circumstances of our lives, sometimes called opening or closing doors. Another way to discern His voice is through inward guidance, sometimes referred to as a gentle whisper. Jesus often uses other people; Jesus sometimes speaks to us through the words of friends, family, and even pastors. We also know that Jesus speaks to us through our conscience.

How does Jesus most often speak to you? Be honest—how often do you listen for His voice? Tell a story of a time you know that you listened and Jesus led you.