



Following JESUS

LEADER'S NOTES

Week 2: He Leads, We Listen

QUESTION 1

Question one is a bit of a review. In this question, we revisited the five principles for following Jesus, and I want your group to discuss which of these they need most in their life right now, which seems to be the easiest, and which seems to be the hardest. Enjoy this question; it should not be difficult.

QUESTION 2

The second question links the leadership of Jesus with a metaphor of a shepherd and then asks this question: What do you think are the benefits of allowing Jesus to lead your life?

Key benefits of letting Jesus lead include:

- Lasting peace and stability: a deep, inward, and perfect peace that surpasses understanding, even in the midst of trials
- Freedom and purpose: freedom from the burden of trying to control one's own destiny and finding purpose in serving God and others
- A transformed mindset: a renewed perspective on circumstances, allowing for joy, patience, and kindness
- Spiritual security and confidence: assurance of salvation, God's presence, and protection, which removes the fear of the future
- Overcoming power: the strength to overcome sin, negative thoughts, and spiritual battles through the power of the Holy Spirit

In contrast, trying to lead your own life often results in confusion, anxiety, and a feeling that something is "off" or missing. Relying solely on oneself can lead to burnout from trying to manage, navigate, or control every aspect of life.

Key scriptures mentioned:

- **John 14:27: Jesus promised to leave his peace with believers.**
- **Psalms 55:22: Cast your burden on the Lord.**
- **Romans 8:35: Nothing can separate believers from the love of Christ.**
- **Psalms 119: Offers guidance for a life-giving, joy-filled existence**

QUESTION 2 - CONTINUED

Question two also asks what's difficult about allowing Jesus to lead. Here are some specific difficulties of letting Jesus lead your life, along with supporting verses:

- Relinquishing control and self-reliance
 - Human nature desires to be in control of its own destiny, making it hard to trust God with the details, especially when He doesn't provide a detailed plan.
 - **Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."**
 - The challenge: letting go of the "reins" and trusting God's direction over your own logic
- The daily cost of "dying to self"
 - Following Jesus requires a daily, sometimes painful, submission of one's personal desires, ambitions, and will to God's will.
 - **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.'"**
 - The challenge: it is a "daily" process, not a one-time decision, requiring the crucifixion of personal sinful tendencies.
- Placing Jesus above relationships and comfort
 - Jesus demands absolute loyalty, which can lead to conflict with family, friends, or societal expectations.
 - **Luke 14:26: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple."**
 - The challenge: choosing God's calling over personal comfort or familial harmony
- Renouncing worldly security (possessions/ambition)
 - Following Jesus often means prioritizing eternal goals over building temporary earthly security or wealth.
 - **Luke 14:33: "In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples."**
 - The challenge: forgoing personal ambitions or financial security to follow where He leads
- Facing persecution and rejection
 - The world often rejects those whose lives are led by Jesus, leading to opposition, ridicule, and suffering.
 - **John 15:19: "If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."**
 - The challenge: standing for truth when it makes you an outcast
- Walking by faith, not sight
 - Sometimes God's path leads through, not away from, trials. This requires trusting His goodness when life is difficult, rather than assuming obedience equals an easy life.
 - **Matthew 7:14: "But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."**
 - The challenge: trusting God's sovereignty when the future is unknown and difficult.

QUESTION 3

The third question focuses on how Jesus, the good Shepherd, meets us when we are facing suffering, pain, and adversity. It asks your group members to share what they are currently facing and how they might allow Jesus to bring renewal and restoration.

QUESTION 4

The last question concerns how we learn to listen to Jesus' voice. I included several ways in the question that we do hear His voice. Be sure to emphasize as you discuss this question that Jesus will never lead us in any way that contradicts scripture.