



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Following Jesus

Luke 9:23

1. Twenty-one times, Jesus uses the phrase, “follow me.” The phrase is used 40 times in context in the gospels. Two of the times Jesus gives the invitation to follow Him are after His resurrection. Those who have accepted Christ are called to follow Him.

What does it mean to you personally to follow Jesus?

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. Tell the story of a time you heard Jesus's voice and allowed Him to lead.

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.**

John 14:27 brings us to the second principle of following Jesus: His pace leads to peace. If we are following Jesus, He sets the pace of our life. When we live at His pace, it brings peace.

Take a moment to evaluate the pace of your life. Is your current pace sustainable?

Is Jesus leading you to alter your pace of life? How might you follow His pace?

4. In Mark 1:17, Jesus calls Peter and his brother Andrew to follow Him. When He does so, 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. They were to be fishermen no longer, but were to learn to become fishers of men. This is the third principle of following Jesus: He leads us to a purposeful destination. Take a moment to process that as a group.

Jesus is leading us to a purposeful destination. All we need to do is trust Him and follow Him. For some, He is leading us to healing. Jesus desires to heal broken hearts. He may lead you into a season where you can recover from past wounds. For some, He may lead us to a new mission or opportunity to serve. Jesus is leading us to grow and develop as His followers, and He is leading us to opportunities to impact others and help Him change their lives.

Has Jesus ever led you into a season of healing? Has He ever led you to a new opportunity to serve and impact others for Him? If so, share that story with your group and explain how it impacted you.

5. The fourth principle of following Jesus reminds us that following Jesus is difficult and that it may involve suffering and repentance. 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."**

The fourth principle of following Jesus reminds us that following Jesus calls for continual repentance. To follow Him means that He must lead; we must surrender to Him and let Him lead us.

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 decided 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?