



LEADER'S NOTES

Invitations

Matthew 9:9; Mark 10:17-22

This week we continued our sermon series on following Jesus. We looked specifically at two invitations that Jesus gave two young men to follow Him. In questions 1 and 2, we look specifically at those invitations. In questions three and four, we examine how we are also invited to follow Jesus and the cost of following Him.

1. The first question deals with the story of a young man, often called the rich young ruler. After reading the scripture, your group is asked three fairly simple questions. Take your time with this question, and invite all or most of your group members to weigh in.
2. Question two follows a somewhat similar format. As the group leader, you need to push your group members to go deeper into this story. One way we go deeper into a story in scripture is to imagine the action from the perspective of every character in the story. For example, what might Jesus be thinking? What's going on with Him? What might Matthew be thinking? What could we assume about his background? Jesus' other disciples are with Him, although they do not have a speaking role. What do we imagine they are thinking about Jesus inviting a tax collector, whom they no doubt despise, to follow Him? If you want to go deeper into this story, you might open the book of Matthew and read the following few verses. Jesus goes to Matthew's house. You might also remind your group members that we are reading the book of Matthew, and this is the story of how Matthew came to follow Jesus.
3. The goal of question three is to make following Jesus personal. It again asks your group members to verbalize what it means to follow Jesus. It also outlines how following Jesus is active not passive. And the call to follow Jesus is also a call to deep relationships. As they answer question three, it will allow you to talk about your group and how it should be a place to develop deep relationships as you follow Jesus together. Also, being involved in service brings people together. If your group has been slow to create a missional strategy or having a mission coordinator, this could be a time to bring that up.
4. Question four deals with the cost of following Jesus. Matthew and the rich young ruler were invited to give up everything and follow Him. I also included a quote from David Platt in this question. This may be an interesting question for your group members because it may not feel to them that they had to give up everything to follow Jesus. Give examples of things you may have given up and how it was more than worth it.