

FOLLOW ME

IN STEP WITH JESUS - THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Be Like Jesus

October 14, 2007

1. Take a few minutes to discuss Sunday's message in an open-ended way. What stood out to you? What questions or thoughts came to your mind? Any disagreements?
2. Consider the variety of ways that people (friends, neighbours, co-workers, family members) use the word "Christian." What are the different things that "Christian" means or stands for in our contemporary culture?
3. What are the practical implications of understanding Jesus' call to "make disciples" as a call to help people follow Jesus, not simply convert to Christianity?

Leader Hints:

You may want to take your small group to Luke 18:18-30, the story of the rich ruler, which we read during the Sunday service. Note Jesus' emphasis on following and Peter's mention of following. Verse 30 talks about "receiving many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life." Jesus is saying that the blessing of following—leaving all behind for Jesus—is eternal life. This is a quality of life with God that can be experienced both now and in the future. So, the "many times as much in this age and in the age to come" = eternal life. Jesus' point is that if you follow, you will have eternal life.

4. Following Jesus means that we want to "be like Jesus." What do you suppose this looks like in everyday life?

Leader Hints:

"Being like Jesus" does not mean that you are Jesus. There is only one Jesus, one God, one sacrifice. "Being like Jesus" must mean more than simply living a moral life or believing in the right set of teaching. Note that this is what the Pharisees were famous for, and Jesus was not a big fan of the Pharisees. (See Luke 12:39-42, 52 for evidence of this.) You could revisit Galatians 2:20 and discuss Paul's words about Christ living in him. In Sunday's message, Pastor Earl identified total life change, complete obedience, and passion for Jesus' ministry as identifiers of the one who is following Jesus.

5. How can our small group help one another be more like Jesus this year?

Leader Hints:

We need to covenant together that our small group is all about following and being like Jesus—that it is more than a social group or even a Bible study group. We need each of us to want this in our life.