

FOLLOW ME

IN STEP WITH JESUS - THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

What Is It Like? | Luke 5:17-32

October 28, 2007

1. How would you explain or describe to someone what it is like to be in relationship with Jesus?

Leader Hints:

Sunday's message spoke directly to the point that following Jesus is more than following his example, but that it is all about being in relationship with him. Give each other time to communicate what it means to be in relationship with Jesus. Some may tend to use abstract ideas or concepts, and you should encourage them to speak from their own experience and understanding. Make sure that they personalize this.

2. How would you compare your trust of Jesus with that of the paralytic and his friends in Luke 5:17-19? Is your faith in Jesus a “wreck the roof” kind of faith? What are some of the obstacles in your life to that kind of trust?

Leader Hints:

This kind of faith is more than a set of beliefs; it is faith in action, total trust. They had a sense that only Jesus could meet their need. You may want to explore what your group members believe are the greatest needs in their lives and discuss how Jesus meets those needs.

3. What is the difference between trying to follow Jesus and following Jesus in response to the depth of God's love for us (Jesus' forgiveness)?

Leader Hints:

If I try in my own strength (whether I want to or out of a sense of duty), I am in essence trying to earn my way to follow. Whatever that is called, it is not repentance. Repentance is a turning toward God that is only possible through his love and grace. When I follow in response to Jesus' forgiveness, I am living and motivated by grace. I am not trying to earn favour from God because all of my favour is wrapped up in forgiveness. I want to follow simply because of God's love for me and no other reason. Repentance, a new direction, only makes sense in light of God's forgiveness. What do you think about these words: “There is no real repentance without forgiveness and no experience of true forgiveness without repentance”?

4. What is some of the evidence of your transformed life—that you have repented and turned toward God?

Leader Hints:

You could revisit other examples like Zaccheus in Luke 19 and John the Baptist teaching in Luke 3. Think about how Levi (Luke 5:27-29) expressed the change in his life—he threw a party to introduce others to Jesus. To what extent is interaction with “sinners”—people like Levi and his friends—evidence that your life is being transformed by Jesus and that you are following him?