



Following Jesus

Five Truths Jesus Wants You To Know

"Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

JESUS CHRIST

Mark 1:17

DVD Series & Workbook

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Following Jesus

Dear Friend,

Thank you for picking up this series entitled, "Following Jesus."

Ever since I first read the account, I have tried to imagine what it must have been like when Jesus came near the Sea of Galilee, walked up to his first disciples and said, "Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Mark 1:17

What an amazing moment in history. Jesus extended the ultimate invitation and Peter, James, John and Andrew dropped their nets and followed Jesus. Jesus extended to Matthew the same invitation while Matthew was sitting in his tax collector's booth. Jesus said, "Follow me." Matthew got up and followed Jesus.

If you are reading this, I believe it's because you either consider yourself to be a follower of Jesus or you are interested in becoming one or maybe you have genuine questions about what it means to follow Jesus. Wherever you might be, I believe Jesus knows all about you, and I believe Jesus will reveal himself to you in a powerful way through this series.

Did you know there are 34 accounts in the New Testament where Jesus has discussions with various individuals or groups of people about what it means to follow him? This is not a minor issue. Following Jesus is a major topic that Jesus wants us to understand.

As I've studied these 34 accounts it seems there are five truths Jesus wants us to understand about following him. In other words, when you add up everything Jesus said and taught about following him, five facts rise to the surface that Jesus wants us to know, if we really want to follow him.

Let me prepare you. What Jesus taught about following him was radical. It was radical then and it is radical today. If you claim to be a follower of Jesus, you are making one of the most radical statements you will ever make. I seriously wonder if most who claim to be followers of Jesus really understand from Jesus' words what such a claim implies?

This series has challenged me and it has changed me and it continues to challenge and change me as I apply the truths Jesus wants me to know about following him.

Whether you will be watching and listening to this material for personal edification or in a small group setting, I would recommend incorporating the following:

1. Read/discuss the introductory questions and pray before you watch.
2. Watch the series in the order in which it is presented.
3. Take notes as you go along on what most impacts your life. You will also want to fill in the blanks. Answers to all fill in the blanks are located at the end of the study.
4. Discuss the various discussion questions that are designed to help you understand the teaching. This study features questions before, during and after the teaching. To discuss questions during Mark's teaching simply hit "pause."
5. Read the book, "Not A Fan" by Kyle Idleman as a companion to this series. Idleman's book is one of the best books I've read on the theme of "Following Jesus." Read the assigned chapters after you watch a particular session. The assigned reading is listed at the end of each study session in the workbook.

It's my prayer that this teaching series will encourage you, equip you, inspire you and motivate you to follow Jesus.

Welcome to Following Jesus —Five Truths Jesus Wants You To Know.

Following Jesus by God's grace,

Dr. Mark Teyler

Did You Get the Invitation?

Discuss before watching

What is the greatest _____ you ever received?

Watch Part 1 of "Following Jesus"

Fact #1 Following Jesus is the _____ invitation you will ever receive!

Mark 1:9-18

_____ is the invitation to follow Jesus the greatest invitation you will ever receive?

1. It's from _____.

"As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee...Come, follow me."

Mark 1:16-17a

"I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between Him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself founded empires; but what foundation did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded an empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for Him." Napoleon

“I am an historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history.” H.G. Wells

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”
John 10:10

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

“A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” C.S. Lewis

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the

head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things.”

Colossians 1:15-20

2. It's _____.

“As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. Come follow me...” Mark 1:16-17a

“Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. As he walked along, he saw Levi Son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector’s booth. Follow me, Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.” Mark 2:13-14

“I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.”
Ephesians 4:1

3. It's _____.

“Come, follow me...” Mark 1:17a

“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” Luke 9:23

“The Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does.”
John 5:19-20

4. It's _____.

“Come, follow me, and I will make you...” Mark 1:17a

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son.” Romans 8:29

5. It leads to an amazing _____.

“At once they left their nets and followed him.” Mark 1:18

“This is how life is supposed to be, it's an adventure, a journey, a trek filled with uncertainty, excitement and risk. In all of us there is a voice crying out, “I want to live!” Sometimes this yearning has been neglected or even rejected. The longing to be alive is drowned by lesser ambitions. We just want to make it through the day to survive, make ends meet, go through the routine, and then exist rather than live. If you have conceded to this lesser form of humanity, let me invite you to hear the roar inside your own soul, if you would dare to risk it, declare without shame, “I want to live!”
Erwin McManus

“They went...” Mark 1:21-43

Discussion: In light of the five reasons mentioned, why do you believe the invitation to follow Jesus is the _____ you will ever receive?

Fact #1 Following Jesus is the _____ invitation you will ever receive!

“Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Mark 1:17a

Reading: Not A Fan (Prologue, Chapter 1-3)

Discussion:

1. What most impacted you from the teaching?
2. Of the various quotes listed under point 1 about the uniqueness of Jesus, which one most impacts you and why?
3. When was the first time you heard Jesus say to you, “Come follow me?” What did you do?
4. How does following Jesus become not a once a week experience (at church) but a daily experience, at work, at the coffee shop, etc?
5. Do you agree that if you follow Jesus little, there is little transformation, but if you follow much there is much transformation? Why or why not?
6. How has following Jesus led to an amazing adventure for your life so far?
7. What is Erwin McManus’ quote under point 5 saying to you?
8. What most impacted you from the assigned Idleman reading?
9. How could you use prayer about following Jesus in light of this message?



Are You Up For The Challenge?

Discuss before watching

What is the greatest _____ you have ever faced?

Watch Part 2 of "Following Jesus"

Fact #2 Following Jesus is the greatest _____ you will ever face.

John 6:48-71

Why is following Jesus the greatest _____?

1. Following Jesus is the greatest challenge because it requires daily _____.

Luke 9:18-23

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23

2. Following Jesus is the greatest challenge because it requires daily _____.

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23

“When Christ calls a man he bids him come and die.”
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“I die every day.” 1 Corinthians 15:31

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

3. Following Jesus is the greatest challenge because it requires putting away your _____.

Luke 9:57-62

John 21:19, 21

4. Following Jesus is the greatest challenge because it requires a willingness to give up _____ you own.

Mark 10:17-22

“In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:33

“Anyone can follow Jesus, but not without giving up everything. Jesus never left open the option of selective commitment. If you call yourself a Christian, by definition you are committing to following Christ with every area of your life!” Kyle Idleman

5. Following Jesus is the greatest challenge because it requires a completely surrendered _____.

“Large crowds were traveling with Jesus and turning to them he said: If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:25-26

Discussion: Of the five reasons Jesus gives, which reason is the greatest challenge to you personally?

Question: Why would anyone _____ to follow Jesus?

Answer: Because of the mind-blowing disciples _____.

“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.” Luke 9:24

Reading: Not A Fan (Chapters 4-5)

Discussion:

What most impacted you from the teaching?

Do you agree that following Jesus is one of the greatest challenges you will ever face?

Have you ever been tempted to stop following Jesus like those in John 6:66? Why do you think they were offended by Jesus as stated in John 6:61?

What does daily self-denial look like in following Jesus?

What does daily personal death look like in following Jesus?

What are some of the common excuses we need to put away if we want to follow Jesus?

What does giving up everything to follow Jesus look like according to Jesus in Luke 14:33? What have you given up to follow Jesus?

What does a completely surrendered heart look like in following Jesus? Have there been significant moments in your life as a follower of great surrender?

What most impacted you from the assigned Idleman reading?

How could you use prayer about following Jesus in light of this message?

Got Help?

Discuss before watching:

When did you receive _____ from someone that made all the difference?

Watch Part 3 of "Following Jesus"

Fact #1 Following Jesus is the _____ invitation you will ever receive!

Fact #2 Following Jesus is the greatest _____ you will ever face.

Fact: No one has ever followed Jesus _____, the goal is to make _____.

Fact #3 Following Jesus requires _____.

There are three _____ of help you need to follow Jesus:

1. You need the help of the _____

"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Luke 24:49

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

The Holy Spirit comes on the Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-18

Matthew 28:19-20

John 16:7, 13

Ask the _____ for power.

“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.” John 16:24

“I pray that he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit.”
Ephesians 3:16

“To him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us...”
Ephesians 3:20

Discussion: Can you give an example of asking the Holy Spirit for power and that helped you follow Jesus?

2. You need the help of _____.

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.”
John 10:14-15

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”
John 10:27

Reading God’s Word _____ you to hear Jesus’ voice.

“The sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. His sheep follow him because they know his voice.”
John 10:3-4

“But solid food (hearing Jesus’ voice) is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.” Hebrews 5:14

Discussion: Can you give a personal testimony of how reading the Bible has supernaturally trained you to hear _____ to follow him?

3. You need the help of other _____.

Mark 3:13-18

“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” Acts 4:13

Reject going alone--make it your goal to build _____ categories of Jesus follower relationships:

(1) You need a _____—someone you look up to and want to be like.

“Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 11:1

(2) You need a _____—someone you are shoulder to shoulder with where you experience mutual encouragement.

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work.” Ecclesiastes 4:9

(3) You need a _____—someone you are helping to follow Jesus.

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” 2 Timothy 2:2

Discussion: Can you share about a Paul, Barnabas or Timothy in your life that has _____ follow Jesus?

Reading: Not A Fan (Chapters 6-7)

Discussion:

1. What most impacted you from the teaching?
2. Following Jesus according to Jesus requires daily self-denial, daily personal death, putting away your excuses, a willingness to give up everything and a completely surrendered heart. Do you think this is possible apart from supernatural power?
3. Who is the Holy Spirit and why is the Holy Spirit the followers #1 source of help/power to follow Jesus?

4. Can you share about a time when you asked the Holy Spirit for power and it made all the difference in following Jesus?
5. Why is hearing Jesus voice important for following Jesus?
6. Why is reading God's Word so important for training us to hear Jesus' voice in order to follow him?
7. Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice, and they follow me" (John 10:27). Can you share about a time when you experienced this in following Jesus?
8. Why does the enemy want to tempt us to follow Jesus solo, just by ourselves, apart from other followers?
9. How have other followers been a source of power to help you follow Jesus?
10. What most impacted you from the assigned Idleman reading?
11. How could you use prayer about following Jesus in light of this message?



Do You Get It?

Discuss before watching:

Discussion: Can you share about a time when you had a _____ or _____ moment?

Watch Part 4 of "Following Jesus"

Fact #4 Following Jesus requires a _____ moment—When you finally say, "Oh, that's what following Jesus is all _____!"

"Come, follow me, Jesus said, and I will make you fishers of men."
Mark 1:17

Fishing and following _____.

Fact #4 Following Jesus requires a breakthrough moment—When you finally say, "Oh, that's what following Jesus is all about. It's about me becoming _____"

Why is fishing for men the primary _____ in following Jesus?

1. Jesus _____ it.

"Come, follow me, Jesus said, and I will make you fishers of men."
Mark 1:17

“The Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees the Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does.”
John 5:19-20

2. Jesus' _____ was about it.

Jesus was _____ to be a fisher of men.

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”
Matthew 1:21

Jesus began his _____ as a fisher of men.

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Luke 4:18

Jesus was a fisher of men to the lost _____ type like Nicodemus.

“I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” John 3:3

Jesus was a fisher of men to the _____, like Matthew.

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus was a fisher of men to the _____, like the woman at the well.

“Whoever drinks the water I give will never thirst. The water I give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

John 4:14

Jesus was a fisher of men with his _____, to the thief on the cross.

“I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Luke 23:43

Jesus was a fisher of men to all types of _____.

“A friend of tax collectors and sinners.” Luke 7:34

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

Luke 19:10

“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” Mark 2:17

3. Jesus _____ it all the time.

Luke 5:1-11

_____ is the biggest challenge to overcome.

Fear is overcome by _____ Jesus.

4. Jesus _____ for it.

“I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But, if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am my servant will also be.”
John 12:24-26

5. Jesus _____ us to it.

“Go and make disciples of all the nations... and I am with you always to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”
Mark 16:15-16

“And repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations...” Luke 24:47-48a

“As the Father has sent me I am sending you.” John 20:21

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Fact #4 Following Jesus requires a breakthrough moment—When you say, “Oh, that’s what it is all about, it’s about me following Jesus to become _____.”

Discussion: Can you share about the time when you had your _____—when you said, “Now I get what it is all about—me following Jesus to become His fisher of men?”

Reading: Not A Fan (Chapters 8-11)

Discussion:

1. What most impacted you from the teaching?
2. Why do so many Christians today believe the primary goal in following Jesus is to have a better life, to be happy, to be a better husband, wife, parent, etc?
3. Why do you think so many Christians today don’t understand that “fishing for men” is the primary goal in following Jesus?
4. Of the five reasons given why fishing for men is the primary goal in following Jesus, which reason most underscores this truth for you?
5. What was the most helpful thing you learned today about how to become a better fisher of men or women?

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6. Why is it that wherever a follower of Jesus goes (work, school, vacation) there is their fishing pond?
 7. How are you learning to follow Jesus around—becoming his fisherman or fisherwoman? How does this work?
 8. Jesus had the reputation of being “A friend of tax collectors and sinners” Luke 7:34. To be an effective fisher of men and women we need to go where the sinners are. How are you following Jesus in this area?
 9. What are some of the things we fear when it comes to following Jesus in being his fisher of men and women?
 10. What has helped you overcome your fear in following Jesus in being his fisher of men and women?
 11. What most impacted you from the assigned Idleman reading?
 12. How could you use prayer about following Jesus in light of this message?

Have You Discovered The Amazing Benefits?

Discuss before watching:

Discussion: What is something in life that pays off in big _____?

Watch Part 5 of "Following Jesus"

Fact #5 Following Jesus comes with amazing _____!

1. You will experience the benefit of _____.

"80% of people get up everyday, go to work and say, this job has no meaning or purpose for me." Gallup

"Come, follow me..." Mark 1:17

2. You will experience the benefit of _____.

"Come, follow me, Jesus said, and I will make you fishers of men."
Mark 1:17

"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son..." Romans 8:29

3. You will experience the benefit of _____!

Mark 10:28-31

4. You will experience the benefit of _____.

“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant will also be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”

John 12:26

“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.”

Matthew 10:32-33

5. You will experience the benefit of _____.

“Peter said, We have left everything to follow you.” Mark 10:28

“Jesus replied, I tell you the truth, no one who has left home or brothers...will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age...and in the age to come, eternal life.” Mark 10:29-31

“Peter said, We have left everything to follow you. What then will there be for us?” Matthew 19:27

“Jesus said to them, I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones.” Matthew 19:29

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Yes, says the Spirit, they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.”

Revelation 14:13

Discussion: Of the five benefits of following Jesus which one do you find the most _____?

Review of the series:

Fact #1 Following Jesus is the greatest _____ you will ever receive!

Fact #2 Following Jesus is the greatest _____ you will ever face.

Fact #3 Following Jesus requires _____.

Fact #4 Following Jesus requires a _____ —
When you say, “Oh, that’s what it is all about, it’s about me following Jesus to become His fisher of men.”

Fact #5 Following Jesus comes with amazing _____!

Reading: Not A Fan (Chapters 12-14)

Discussion:

1. What most impacted you from the teaching?
2. What was your sense of purpose like when you didn’t follow Jesus?
3. How has following Jesus allowed you to experience the benefit of greater purpose?

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4. What was your experience of transformation like when you didn't follow Jesus?
 5. How has following Jesus led to you experiencing the benefit of ongoing transformation?
 6. How has following Jesus allowed you to experience the benefit of 100 times as much?
 7. How has following Jesus allowed you to experience the benefit of spiritual affirmation from God?
 8. How has this series most helped you, encouraged you, equipped you to follow Jesus?
 9. What most impacted you from the assigned Idleman reading?
 10. How could you use prayer about following Jesus in light of this message and series?

Answer Key

Did You Get the Invitation? Part 1: invitation; greatest; why; Jesus; personal; daily; transformational; adventure; greatest invitation; greatest

Are You Up For The Challenge? Part 2: challenge; challenge; challenge; self-denial; personal-death; excuses; everything; heart; choose; paradox

Got Help? Part 3: help; greatest; challenge; perfectly; progress; supernatural help; sources; Holy Spirit; Holy Spirit; Jesus' voice; trains; Jesus' voice; Jesus followers; three; Paul; Barnabas; Timothy; helped you

Do You Get It? Part 4: breakthrough; light bulb; breakthrough; about; go together; His fisher of men; goal; stated; entire life; born; public ministry; religious; despised; thirsty; final breaths; sinners; reiterated; fear; following; died; commissioned; His fisher of men; breakthrough moment

Have You Discovered The Amazing Benefits? Part 5: benefits; benefits; purpose; ongoing transformation; 100 times as much; spiritual affirmation; eternal reward; amazing; invitation; challenge; supernatural help; breakthrough moment; benefits