



FOLLOW JESUS – Session 1 of 2

[Before answering these questions, view the film “Follow Jesus”.]



1. We will discuss specific aspects of the film you just watched, but for now, take a minute to talk about your initial reactions. (Try to be honest.)
 - a) **How did the film make you feel?**
 - b) **What challenged you?**
2. Somehow, we’ve so confused the idea of following Jesus that many people today are convinced that they’re following Jesus, even though their lives look nothing like Jesus’ life. **Based on your experience with church and your own Christian life, how do you think we’ve come to this point?**

[Clip – “Follow the Leader”]

3. **Looking at your own life, do you see a tendency to “follow in your heart” instead of following in reality?**

If so, what does this tendency lead you to do (or keep from doing)?

4. Read 1 John 2:3-6. In this letter, John draws a sharp contrast between darkness and light, love and hate, good and evil. In this passage, John describes what it means to know God. As you read the passage together, note John’s simplicity and consider the obvious meaning of his words. **(Next)**

*(Note – The following verses are not on the DVD) And **by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.** 4 **Whoever says “I know Him” but does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in Him: 6 whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.***

1 John 2:3-6 (ESV)

According to John, what does it mean to know God?

5. John talks about obeying God’s commandments. It’s usually easier to think about God’s commands in an abstract way. But these commands are meant to be lived out practically in real life situations.

Name a few things that Jesus clearly calls us to do and discuss how those commands can and should be followed in your everyday life.

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6. It's all so simple. If we know God, we will be following Jesus. He gives us clear and simple commands, and He wants us to literally obey the things He tells us to do.

But the fact that a concept is simple does not mean it's easy to live out. There are many obstacles to following Jesus. ***What in your life keeps you from following Jesus' clear and simple commands?***

7. ***If you were to decide today, "I'm going to do whatever it takes to be a person who loves people who look down on me" and "I'm going to throw myself into this job of making disciples" – what would be some of the costs of doing that? What about the risks?***
8. Before they became disciples, Peter and Andrew were fishermen. They were fishing when Jesus called them to follow Him. They simply left their nets and followed Jesus. James and John were in a boat with their father mending nets when Jesus called them. They left the boat and their father and followed Jesus. (Matthew 4:18-22)

If you've identified things that keep you from following Jesus, what would it take to change or remove those aspects of your life so that you can begin to follow Jesus?

[Clip – "Go Clean Your Room"]

9. When we gather together for Bible studies we sometimes assume that just getting together is enough, and we use the study as a substitute for following Jesus. The solution is not to stop meeting together – God has given us a community to believers to help us follow more fully. Jesus' commands weren't meant to be lived out in isolation. ***In light of this truth, how can you use your small group time as a catalyst – rather than a replacement – for following Jesus? (Next)***

Try to be practical here. There are many things that each of us needs to do in order to follow Jesus in our everyday lives. ***What are a few things that you can begin doing today?***

10. Spend some time in prayer.
- Pray that God would help you to simplify your relationship with Him.
 - Pray for a desire to follow Jesus in everyday life.
 - Surrender your life to Him and ask for the strength to follow wherever He might lead.

[Encouragement to complete ***Follow Jesus – Session1*** in the follower's guide.]