

# Following Jesus

## learning and living his way

### Start Here

- If you could develop a particular skill or expertise, what would it be?
- Who is the best in that field that you would like to learn from?
- What do you think would be difficult about learning?

### Main Idea

Throughout history people have learned their trade, skills, and livelihood by serving as apprentices to a master. They listen, watch, and copy the ways of their teacher. They follow the pattern given to them, and develop their abilities by putting into practice what they are taught.

Jesus' call to us is to follow him and be his apprentices, not just to be saved. We often refer to this as being a disciple – someone who learns from him and lives his way.

Read these verses together. What does following Jesus look like?

- Matthew 4:19-20
- Matthew 7:24-27
- Matthew 11:28-30

### Explore the Word (Part 1)

Jesus is very clear that there is a cost to following him. Throughout the New Testament we see the call to discipleship is a whole-life commitment. Read these verses and discuss what we learn about being a disciple.

- Matthew 16:24-27
- John 12:24-26
- 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
- Galatians 2:20

These verses teach us that to be a Christian, a follower of Christ, we must live for him and let him shape every aspect of our lives.

### Discuss

Because of the cost of discipleship, when Jesus called people, there were different responses. Some, like Peter, James, John, and Matthew, immediately left everything and followed him (e.g. Matthew 9:9). Some people had other priorities and did not become disciples (Luke 9:57-62).

In John 6:66-69, after Jesus had given some challenging teachings, we see that many people who

had been following him took offence and no longer followed him. But others decided to remain with Jesus and keep learning and living his way.

- What reason did Peter give for remaining Jesus' disciple?
- What are the reasons for us to choose to be wholehearted disciples, even when it is challenging?

## **Explore the Word (Part 2)**

As Peter showed, the best decision we can make is to be Jesus' disciples. Yes, there is cost, but the joy and reward of remaining with him far outweigh any sacrifice.

Read these verses and list more reasons why following Jesus with our whole life is the best decision we can make.

- John 8:12
- John 10:10-11
- John 11:25
- John 14:6
- John 15:11

Now it's your turn: As you've read the Bible over the last few weeks, can you think of any verses that remind you of yet another great reason to follow Jesus?

Write the verse and add that to your list.

## **Practice Together Now**

Share your experiences of following Jesus.

- What have you learned from him that has already changed the way you live?
- What else is he teaching you that you now need to put into practice?
- What steps can you take this week to begin?

Take time to pray and tell the Lord that you want to be his disciple. You can use these words:

- Lord, I want to be your disciple: to learn from you, follow you, and put into practice what you teach me.
- Lord, I want to be changed by you, so that I live like you and live for your purposes.
- Lord, I choose to deny myself because I trust that you are the way, the truth, and the life.

## **Review your Practice Daily**

- Practice following Jesus:
  - Consider what the Lord is teaching you or asking you to do. Choose to follow him in it this week by putting it into practice.
  - Share how you are following Jesus with each other during the week.
- Plan time together before your next step.

Jesus taught his disciples to love others and enjoy relationship. He did this by taking his disciples to weddings where they learned to celebrate; dinner parties where they became friends with

people different to them; the disciples learned how to live life together as they travelled, talked, ate meals, and worshipped together.

Before doing the next step, plan to enjoy time together. Some ideas:

- Share a meal or a drink
- Enjoy the outdoors together
- Introduce your family and friends to each other
- Try a new activity together