



Sunday, September 9, 2018 – Bruce Enns
“Follow Me”

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

(These are to be used personally, with family or with your Small Group)

“Follow Me” is an invitation to living a life of daily response to Jesus and at the core of discipleship. We follow a person, not a set of rules, as we grow as a disciple and also disciple others. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus gives many significant invitations to all kinds of people from all walks of life. It's an invitation that is personal, that is all encompassing, and one that will change and transform your life forever. This fall we'll explore what it means to follow Jesus, using the lens of our practical discipleship steps. This invitation is also for you - join us as we follow Jesus.

1. Write down a one or two sentence definition of the word "follow". What does it mean to follow something or someone? What does "following" require of you? Describe a good experience of following someone or something - one that worked well. Describe a 'bad' experience of following. What was the difference?
2. In order to drive somewhere you've never been before in a strange city, would you rather follow a list of driving instructions printed off from Google maps, or have a person in a car ahead of you who simply says, "follow me"? Explain your preference.
3. The Gospel of Matthew is named after the author (and disciple) who was also invited to follow Jesus. Read Matthew's story of personal invitation in Matthew 9:9-13. What is significant about Matthew being a tax collector? How would Matthew have been viewed by his fellow Jews? His family? What caused the kind of reaction from the

others already following Jesus, when Jesus goes to Matthew's home for dinner? What is the meaning and significance of Jesus' response to them (vs. 12-13)? What does this passage teach you about following Jesus and what is the good news in this story?

4. Matthew 4:18-20 describes Jesus' invitation to four other disciples to follow him. What do you notice about their response? What questions does it raise for you? What was required of them in order to follow Jesus?
5. Read Matthew 16:21-28. In this passage we see the high challenge that Jesus gives in order to follow him. Jesus leads the way in the high cost of discipleship and describes what lies ahead in order for him to fulfill his calling. What are the specific things Jesus describes to his disciples of what is required in order to follow?
6. Why is denying ourselves and turning from our selfish ways so hard? What's involved in order to do that? What does it mean to 'take up your cross'? What does Hebrews 12:1-4 also teach us about how we are to follow Jesus?
7. How would you explain Matthew 16:25 in your own words? What are some ways that you've experienced this in your own life?
8. One of the most important words in the Bible is 'soul'. If someone asked you to explain it - what would you say? John Ortberg says, "If your soul is healthy, no external circumstance can destroy your life. If your soul is unhealthy, no external circumstance can redeem your life." Would you agree or disagree? How might this align with vs. 26? If our soul is the deepest part of us and has the capacity to integrate all the parts of our lives (mind, body, will, etc.), what does this teach us about following Jesus?

Next Steps

In our discipleship journey with Jesus, the important question we have to ask is not whether 'we've arrived', but rather, 'are we following'? Given this week's study, what would be indications that you are following Jesus today? Pray for each other in these areas.