



Follow Me – Week 1 – The Invitation

Spiritual Formation Guide

They're two simple phrases that have the power to change the trajectory of lives everywhere: COME AND SEE and FOLLOW ME. When we allow these phrases to fill our conversations, God's unstoppable church thrives and grows.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"¹⁴ "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."¹⁵ Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?"¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being."¹⁸ Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

Matthew 16:13-18

³⁵ The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples.³⁶ As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, "Look! There is the Lamb of God!"³⁷ When John's two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus.

³⁸ Jesus looked around and saw them following. "What do you want?" he asked them. They replied, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

³⁹ "Come and see," he said. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day.

John 1:35-39

When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he instructed his disciples to cross to the other side of the lake.

¹⁹ Then one of the teachers of religious law said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

²⁰ But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head."

²¹ Another of his disciples said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father."

²² But Jesus told him, "**Follow me now.** Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead."

Matthew 8:18-22

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from Sunday's worship service and message?
- How have you heard Jesus described by others (not necessarily within the church, but anywhere)?
- Who is Jesus to you? (Try to get beyond the answer you feel you should give – answer as honestly as possible.)
- Read Matthew 16:16-18. What do Jesus' words tell you about the church? How do you see his words coming true today?
- Jesus invites you to "come and see." Read John 1:35-39. Can you answer Jesus' question in verse 38, "what do you want?" What do you want from Jesus?
- Jesus invites you, saying "follow me." Read Matthew 8:18-22. Is there anything that stands in the way of following Jesus?
- What are some of the things that help you stay connected to Jesus in your everyday life? Read through some of the suggestions for spiritual practices and choose one to try this week.

Practices:

- Spend some more time reflecting and journaling. Read Matthew 16:13-18. Write out these two questions and then spend some time reflecting on Jesus asking you these questions & give your response:
 - Hear Jesus ask you, "Who do people say that I am?" – How have you heard people describe Jesus?
 - Jesus asks you, "Who do you say I am?" – Who is Jesus to you?
- Spend some time reading Matthew 8 and writing down your observations about Jesus. What do you notice about him? What do you want to say to him?
- Who can you invite to "come and see" who Jesus is? Take a moment to let names and faces come to mind; pray for opportunities to extend a simple invitation.