

"Walk With Jesus"

Overview



To be a disciple of someone can mean different things to different people. The word "disciple" can imply believing in someone, supporting them, following them, serving them, being devoted to them, and a lot more.

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? How exactly do you do that - especially since Jesus is not physically with us to direct our steps and show us the way?

In this lesson we will examine the importance of following Jesus and suggest some practical ways in which we can do that, primarily through some key spiritual disciplines which are essential to the Christian walk.

Getting Started *To Follow or Not To Follow*



1. If you could follow anyone around for a day, who would it be? Why did you pick that person?
 2. Who is your favorite fictional hero or character? Why? Who do you think is the greatest fictional villain of all-time? Why?
 3. Do you have any personal heroes or people you admire (either historical or living)? Who are they? In what way(s) would you like to be like them?
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The Text



When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12 (NIV)

The Audio (optional)



"Walk With Jesus" - by Kyle Corbin, Sept. 8/19

NOTES: _____

Understanding



1. What is the context of this event (i.e. what has just happened) (read John 8:1-11). How might this event have prompted Jesus to say what He says in verse 12?
2. How is "light" an appropriate description of who Jesus is? Why did He choose that picture to describe Himself here?
3. What qualifies Jesus as the One we should be following after? Consider the other "I am" sayings of Jesus in the Gospel of John (see 6:35; 10:9, 10:11; 11:25; 14:6; and 15:5).
4. What is the "darkness" Jesus is referring to? What examples can you think of (from our culture and from your own experience) where you have seen people "walking in darkness"?
5. Jesus calls upon His hearers to "follow" him? What do you think "following" Jesus means in practical terms? What does it involve?
6. Jesus is understood to be our Lord and Master. What does this mean in practical terms? How do we ensure Jesus is Lord of our "knowing"? How do we ensure He is Lord of our "doing"? Do you tend to focus on one of these more than the other? If so, why?
7. How is our life different when we have the "light of life"? What does this "life" include (see John 8:31-32)? What does the alternative ("death") look like?

Applying



1. Is following after Jesus easy or hard? In what ways do people find it easy? In what ways do people find it hard?
2. How could the following activities help you in your walk with Jesus?
 - Walk With Jesus - engaging in spiritual disciplines, following Jesus as Lord
 - Gather for Worship - participating in corporate church gatherings
 - Grow in a Community Group - joining a Community Group
 - Share the Work - utilizing your gifts to build the church
 - Engage in Mission - engaging in your God-given mission
 - Expand in Knowledge and Skill - growing in knowledge, learning a new skill
3. We consider the items listed in Question #2 to be "basics" of following Jesus. Are there any other "basics" that you think we should pursue? Why are they important?

4. Jesus has looked at each one of us and said... "I want YOU to be my disciple." How do these words of Jesus make you feel? How do they impact you?
 5. What do you imagine will be some of the personal challenges you will face in attempting to grow in your walk with Christ (read Luke 14:25-33, John 13:13-15)? How can your group members help you overcome these?
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Memory Verse(s)



Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Matthew 16:24 (NIV)

Extra Resources



- ❖ *"Walk With Me"* by Pastor Kyle Corbin (Immanuel Church website, Sept. 8, 2019). Pastor Kyle sets the stage in this sermon for a review of the discipleship essentials.
- ❖ *"Follow Me"* by Jon Bloom (Desiring God website, Oct. 7, 2010). In this article, the author helps us understand that the only thing which qualifies us to be a follower of Christ is our need for His grace.
- ❖ *"The Spirit of the Disciplines"* by Dallas Willard (HarperSanFrancisco, 1988). Dallas uses this book to provide a theology for the spiritual disciplines.