



Week 1 Leader Guide

THE WIN

The group member will evaluate who they pattern their life after and will discover and discuss how to pattern their life around the way of Jesus.

1-2
minutes

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In the message this week we see Jesus calls his disciples to abandon everything and follow him.

3-5
minutes

WARM UP

Say this: When we look back on our childhood, I think most everyone has at least experienced trying to walk in someone else's shoes. Maybe it was your mom or dad. Or, quite possibly it was a big brother or big sister. It might have even been someone you admired and wanted to be just like them.

Ask this:

- Who was that person? Why did you want to walk in his/her shoes?

30-35
minutes

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

Discuss: Describe your relationship to Jesus.

Ask this:

- What have you been learning from him these last few weeks from his word?

Say this: Tim Keller in "Gospel Christianity" said "Identity is a complex set of layers, for we are many things. Our occupation, ethnic identity, etc., are part of who we are. But we assign different values to these components and thus Christian maturing is a process in which the most fundamental layer of our identity becomes our self-understanding as a new creature in Christ along with all our privileges in him."

Ask this:

- When you think about your life before Christ, what area(s) did you identify as the most fundamental layer(s) of your identity?

Do this:

Have different people look up Matthew 4:19-20, John 13:14, 34, 14:12, 15:10; 1 John 2:6; 1 Peter 2:21 and read them aloud.

Ask this:

- What did Jesus intend for His disciples to do?
- What did John and Peter expect of those people who were disciples of Jesus?
- How do you think Christ might respond today if people do not leave their nets and follow Him?

Say this: In Jesus' culture, a rabbi's disciples were fully expected to become like their rabbi (teacher) when they were fully taught. Since Jesus was a disciplemaker, He expected His disciples to become Jesus-like disciplemakers. However, most Christians in our culture seem less willing to give the time it takes to become more like Jesus so that they can be Jesus to the overwhelmed, under-resourced and far from God.

Most Christians are more than willing to accept Jesus as the payment for their sins but not accept the invitation to participate in the mission of the Kingdom of God. However, there are fewer Christians who seem willing to make Jesus the pattern for their lives.

Ask this:

- Who do you now pattern your life after? Why

Have someone read: Romans 5:9-10

Ask this:

- What do you think prevents Christians from making Jesus the pattern for their lives?
- What needs to change in your heart and habits to set in motion or to enhance your priority to walk as disciple of Jesus?

Have someone read: Matthew 28:16-20

Discuss: Imagine you are one of the disciples of Jesus on the mountains of Galilee. Describe some of the thoughts and feelings you have as Jesus gives this commission to you and your friends.

3-5
minutes

DIGGING DEEPER

Application: Before concluding this group discussion, make a list of five people from your sphere of influence who aren't following Christ. Commit to praying daily for each of these people throughout this week, asking the Holy Spirit to convict them of their sin and their need to experience salvation.

CLOSING THOUGHT

Pray: Spend some time praising Jesus for being both the payment for our sins and the pattern for our lives.

Reflect: This week, spend some time each day reflecting and journaling on how different your life would be if you depended on Jesus to help you "walk as He walked."