



discussion
questions



Sept 9,
2018

BELONG

1. Who do you follow? Are there any people in your life that you intentionally emulate and copy their actions, words, mannerisms, etc.? Perhaps a mentor at work, a pop culture personality, or a family member who you look up to? What is it about this person(s) that causes you to follow them?
2. What would you do if someone who you had never met came to you and requested that you follow them, promising a personal benefit if you did? What would this person need to do to convince you on the spot that they are worth following?

GROW

1. In Genesis 12, God spoke to Abraham (a man whose family did not believe in God, but worshiped idols), and called him to follow God. Have a member of your group read Genesis 12:1-3. Would you have left your people, your immediate family, and your hometown to follow an unknown person or entity after hearing just three sentences from a complete “stranger”?
2. An interesting element of God’s promise to Abraham was that he never fully realized the benefits of his sacrifice in his lifetime. God promised to turn Abraham into a great nation and did grow his family, but he never saw or experienced God’s promise in its fullness. Have a member of your group read Hebrews 11:8-12 and discuss Abraham’s faith and resolve to live with less in order to follow God’s calling. Have you ever had to give up something in order to follow God’s leading?
3. Now have a member of your group read Hebrews 11:13-19. This passage explains the life and legacy of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah, a group of people who set aside comfort in this life for a heavenly reward. They received a promise from God and followed Him unwaveringly, even to the point of sacrificing what they valued most (Isaac), knowing that God is faithful and able to do all that He promises and more.
4. Assign the following verses to group members and have them read them in succession to the group:
 - a. Matthew 16:24-25 (“...take up their cross & follow...whoever loses their life for me will find it.”)
 - b. Romans 8:14-17 (“...heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ”)
 - c. Romans 8:31-29 (“...graciously give us all things...nothing will be able to separate...”)
 - d. Luke 6:20-23 (“...great is your reward in heaven”)

Do you believe the promises in these verses? Does your life reflect these beliefs, or do you spend your time and money building and maintaining earthly comforts, while neglecting heavenly pursuits?

REACH

1. Matthew 6:21 says “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Where could you be better “investing” your time and money this coming week? Who in your life may need your leisure time or discretionary budget more than you do this week?
2. Pastor Brian discussed that God’s promises are often achieved through a process. What “processes” are you intentionally following to stay on the path to receive God’s promises to you?