

6. Read Mark 8:35.

A.) What are some rewards we get for following Jesus?

B.) How does Jesus save us? What does He save us from?

C.) How does He make our lives count? How does following Jesus keep us from wasting our lives?

LIVE the WORD

1. Give yourself a grade when it comes to “taking up your cross and following Jesus.” How are you doing? What needs to change?
2. Whether you are a Christian or not, you can make a decision to follow Jesus in a fresh, new way. What barriers do you feel are keeping you from your “next step” of faith? What can you do, right now, to move toward Jesus in a practical, specific way?

GO

- ⇒ As a Growth Group we ask/challenge each group to “go” into our community to show the love of Christ and serve our city. Do you have your serve project planned? When? Where? What? Take action and go.
- ⇒ As a follower of Christ we are called to “Go” into all the world. Where is God asking you to take the Gospel message? Will you be obedient and follow?

Pray

- ⇒ Ask for God’s help to follow Him

MESSAGE NOTES

Series: Because of the Cross....

Message: I Can Follow God

Text: Mark 8:34-38

Speaker: Brian Bolton

*Growth Groups are sermon-based small groups that meet primarily in homes.
To join a group, visit mycpointe.com/growthgroups*

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your Growth Group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Add any optional scriptures and questions if needed, and then wrap up by deciding on your next steps. You can use this study guide with your Growth Group, your family, or on your own.

Pray

Ask God to clear your mind and help you focus. Ask God to speak to you as you work thru this guide by yourself and with your Growth Group.

Open

1. What makes someone a credible leader? What attributes makes you want to follow someone? What behaviors give you a clue that someone is a quality leader? Is it easy or difficult for you to follow someone else's lead? Why?
2. Would you describe yourself as more of a leader or a follower? When have you led a project, event, or ministry? What was required of you as the leader? When have you been a follower of someone else? Why did you follow that particular person? What was required of you?

Read, Hear, & Live the Word

Read Mark 8:31-38

1. Jesus' disciples had a misunderstanding of who the Messiah would be, and it affected what kind of disciples they were becoming.
 - A.) What are some of the common misunderstandings of who the Messiah is today?
 - B.) What is your understanding of who the Messiah is?

2. What parts of Jesus do people generally like? What makes Jesus an attractive leader that people would naturally want to follow? What parts don't people like? Why do some people choose to not follow Jesus?
3. What was different about Jesus' style of leadership compared with that of the Pharisees and Sadducees? What did Jesus do and say that was different than what they did and said?
4. Jesus asked much of those He led. He didn't make being a disciple easy. Look at the following requirements of being a disciple. What about these requirements seems harsh or demanding?

Matthew 16:24

Luke 14:26, 27

Luke 14:33

John 8:31

John 15:8

5. To take up your cross means to live a life of danger and self sacrifice... to suffer difficulties because of your faith.
 - A.) How is bearing our cross different from the normal, routine challenges of our lives (bills, fatigue, sickness, work, etc.)?
 - B.) When have you observed someone suffering because of their faith?