

# Follow **GROUPS**

Series: Follow  
Sermon: Jesus Says  
October 22, 2015

## **Have some fun...**

1. What is your favorite ice cream?
2. What is your favorite movie?
3. What is something people do in traffic that really bothers you?
4. Where are you from?
5. Do you have any siblings? If so, how many?

## **Overview of Follow – Sermon 1 “Jesus Says” (Read Aloud)**

Jewish teachers tell us there are 613 commandments in the Old Testament, 248 ‘Dos,’ and 365 ‘Don’ts.’ All these rules! Most people kind of view Christianity as more of the same: all these ‘Dos’ and Don’ts.’ Rules, rules, and more rules. That is why being a Christian is actually drudgery to so many, and why so many Christians become so judgmental. That is also why many push the church away.

What if we could wipe the slate clean? What if we could learn from Jesus without our preconceived ideas? We would discover that he was not obsessed with rules. Rather, he was intensely relational. He doesn’t tell us believe certain things and obey certain rules ... and then we can follow him. He asks us to follow him, even before we are all cleaned up.

Being a sinner does not disqualify you from following Jesus (in fact it’s a prerequisite). And being an unbeliever does not disqualify you from following Jesus (you don’t have to have all the answers before you start hanging with him). It’s not about the Dos and the Don’ts, it’s about exploring whether doing life with him makes life better, and makes you better at life.

## **Talk About It**

### 1. Rules...

- A. Are you a rule follower or ruler breaker?
  - B. What was a rule you disliked growing up?
  - C. Are there any rules you expect of other that you don't follow?
  - D. Are there any rules you like?
  - E. Do you think people, who do not follow Jesus, think church is more about rules or relationship? Based on your answer, share why you feel like that.
2. Many of our lives as Christians have been defined by rules and fear. What are the outcomes of living a life defined by rules and fear?
  3. "It's not so much that we want God; it's more that we fear Hell." Do you think this statement describes most Jesus followers?
  4. Knowing what you know at this point in life, if you could start over in your relationship with God, would you?
  5. Read 1 John 4:16-19. What do these verses say to you about following Jesus?

## **The Source – Matthew 9:9-12**

1. Read Matthew 9:9-12.
2. Who would Matthew be in modern day?
3. Does it surprise you that Matthew tells his own story?
4. What could Jesus have said to Matthew instead of "follow me"?
5. What do you think the disciples thought?
6. Why do you think Matthew followed?
7. What was Jesus asking Matthew when he says, "Follow me."
8. In verse 12, Matthew had to admit that he was "sick". All of us are "sick". How difficult is it to admit that we are "sick".

## **Make It Practical**

1. Jesus encouraged relationship with God to be very relational. He actually called his Father "abba", which means "Daddy" or "Papa".
  - A. Does it surprise you that God desires that kind of closeness with his followers?
  - B. How do you try to develop closeness with God?

2. What makes life better for you being a Jesus follower? Why would you encourage someone to be a Jesus follower?
3. Do you think Christians are judgemental? If so, how can you become a Jesus follower, who is not judgemental?
4. The statement was made that “you can believe the right things and behave the right way and not follow Jesus.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
5. What do you need to “unlearn” about Jesus? About God? About your life with God?
6. 4 takeaways from the sermon were mentioned:
  - A. #1 - Being a sinner does not disqualify you...in fact it’s a prerequisite.
  - B. #2 - Being a doubter or even an unbeliever doesn’t disqualify you from being a Jesus follower.
  - C. #3 - His invitation to follow is an invitation to relationship, not rules.
  - D. #4 - Following Jesus forces me to focus on where I am rather than where you are not.
7. Which one of the above takeaways means the most to you at this time?

### **Pray Together**

1. Read John 10:10. Pray that each person would become a follower defined by “life” rather than “fear”.
2. Go around the circle and see if anyone has any needs that the group can pray for. Have each group member pray for the person on their right ***silently***. After 1 minute, the group leader will audibly have a closing prayer.