

Follow **GROUPS**

Series: Follow
Sermon: Next Steps
October 29, 2017

Have some fun...

1. Do you squeeze the toothpaste tube or roll it? What's the advantage to your method?
2. What do you do if you can't sleep at night? Do you count sheep, toss and turn, or get up and try to do something productive?
3. On a scale of 1 to 10, how well do you sing?
4. What is the first word that comes to mind when you hear the word hamburger?
5. How particular are you about the maintenance of your car?

Overview of Follow – Sermon 2 “Next Steps” (Read Aloud)

Religion says, change and you can join us. Jesus says, join us and you will change. There's a huge difference. Jesus doesn't expect you to be perfect. He just wants you to follow him. We start by listening – honestly; then we let him inconvenience us – a little; then we do something we have done 1000 times before – but his way this time. And when he responds to our faith with his faithfulness, it's not so hard to tell him, “Whatever, whenever, however ...” We have no idea what hangs in the balance from the decisions we make. Don't ever get to a place where you look back and wonder what God might have done in and through you had you said “yes.”

Talk About It

1. What is one thing you remember from last week's discussion?
2. Have you made any decisions that have affected your life for the long-term?
3. Describe your first encounter with Jesus?
4. What is something that you are good at? How good were you when you started?

The Source

Matthew 4:19-21

1. Read the passage.
2. If you only had this account of these men following Jesus, what conclusions would you draw about following Jesus?
3. Does their response to Jesus (leaving their family) seem faithful or irresponsible?

John 1:35-42

1. Read the passage.
2. How do you think Andrew and Peter thought about Jesus from this interaction?

Luke 5:1-11

1. Jesus was teaching and the people were listening. What role does listening have in relation to following?
2. What do you think Peter thought when Jesus asked him to go fishing? (Read verse 4-5)
3. Peter goes fishing with Jesus. In verse 5, Peter says, "But, because you say so, I will let down my nets." Why do you think Peter went with Jesus?
4. Have you ever felt like God was asking you to do something different? Share the situation and if the decision was difficult for you.
5. Read Luke 5:8-9. Why do you think Peter told Jesus to go away?
6. Jesus asked Peter to do something different. Has Jesus asked you to do anything different in your life?
7. If you experienced what these men did, would you have chosen to follow Jesus? Why?

Make It Practical

1. 4 stages of following were mentioned. At Capital City, we call this the Path of Discipleship. The 4 stages represent 4 different aspects of following that occurred in Luke 5.

A. Just Looking (Stage 1) – In this story, people were sitting and listening.

B. Getting Started (Stage 2) – In this story, Jesus asked Peter to loan him his boat so he could preach to the crowds.

C. Digging Deeper (Stage 3) – In this story, Jesus asked Peter to take him fishing. Peter knew how to fish, but Jesus was asking Peter to do it his way.

D. All In (Stage 4) – In this story, Jesus asks the men to leave their nets and follow him.

2. Which stage do you identify with most?

3. Finish this sentence. “Because I am at stage _____, I really need to _____.”

4. You have no idea what hangs in the balance when you decide to follow Jesus. What do you think God can do with your decision to follow him?

5. The question was asked at the beginning of the sermon, “Am I following?” How do you answer that question?

Pray Together

1. 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 left **silently**. After 1 minute, the group leader will audibly have a closing prayer.

2. While praying silently for the person on the left, pray for any needs they may have and any “steps” they need to take.