

Series: Follow
Sermon: Unfollow
December 10, 2017

Have some fun...

1. Are you usually early, on time or late?
2. What is a favorite book you have read?
3. Do you have your shopping for Christmas finished? Share with the group what type of shopper you are. (last minute, on-line, buy presents in July, etc.)
4. What is one of the best gifts you have ever received? What is one of the best gifts you have enjoyed giving to someone?
5. Are you able to enjoy the Christmas season or are you ready for it to be over? Explain your answer.

Overview of Follow – Sermon 8 “Unfollow” (Read Aloud)

Jesus invites everyone to follow him. Being a sinner is a prerequisite. Having doubts is a prerequisite. That’s because we’re all sinners and we all have doubts. Following Jesus results in overwhelming faith, but at times it can also be inconvenient, costly, and even embarrassing. It can cause us to miss opportunities, lose business, or stand out in the crowd when we’d rather fit in. Even Jesus’ earliest followers wrestled with this tension. But one of his disciples asked a question that put everything in perspective: “To whom shall I go?”

Talk About It

1. What do you tend to do when circumstances get hard?
2. Have you ever been tempted to stop following Jesus? Have you ever stopped following Jesus and then returned? Share your story with your group.
3. From your perspective, what do you think is the #1 reason for someone to not be a Jesus follower?
4. Share a time when it has been inconvenient to follow Jesus.

The Source

Read Matthew 5:1-12

1. What do you think people thought of Jesus' sermon?
2. What do you think the term "blessed" mean? This is how each verse starts out in verses 3-11.
3. Thinking of all the things Jesus said, what do you think is one of the strangest things that he said?

Read John 6:1-15

1. How did this miracle affect the people?
2. How did this miracle affect the disciples?
3. Why do you think Jesus "withdrew to a mountain by himself?" (verse 15)

Read John 6:25-36, 41-42, 53-57, 66-69

1. If you were present when Jesus was saying these things, what would you have thought?
2. As a Jesus follower, how have you come to understand verses 53-57? How would you explain this to someone who does not follow Jesus?
3. Does it surprise you that Jesus says to his disciples, "Do you want to leave too?" (verse 67) Why do you think he asks this question of them?
4. What is Simon Peter saying in verses 68 and 69?

Make It Practical

1. In this Follow Series, you have learned:
 - A. Every man, woman and child is invited to follow Jesus.
 - B. The invitation is not to religion, but relationship.
 - C. Being a sinner is a prerequisite.
 - D. You can choose to follow even if you have doubts about God.
 - E. Jesus does not promise a pain free, problem free life.
 - F. If you follow Jesus long enough, you will become like him.
 - G. Following Jesus will cost you...a lot. Not following will cost you more.

H. Every Jesus follower is a leader. You can only lead well when you follow Jesus.

I. At some point, you will be tempted to quit following Jesus.

2. Which one of the above statements has helped you the most in following Jesus?

3. Which statement has been the most challenging?

Pray Together

1. Is transition, trouble or temptation currently getting in the way of your ability to follow Jesus? How can this group pray for and support you?

2. Pray John 6:68-69

A. Pray for a greater trust in Jesus words of eternal life.

B. Pray for an increased belief in and knowledge of Jesus, the Holy One of God.”