



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Follow / Week 2

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

LEADER PREP

CONVERSATION GUIDE

BOTTOM LINE

Following Jesus starts with a step.

SCRIPTURE

Later, as Jesus left the town, he saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Levi got up, left everything, and followed him (Luke 5:27-28 NLT).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to take just one step toward following Jesus.

THINK ABOUT THIS

The idea of "following Jesus" is a very abstract concept for a middle schooler. That's probably because they get a lot of mixed messages about what it really looks like to be a follower of Jesus. Messages from the media, their parents, their friends, the things they watch on TV, the music they listen to, the books they read—at times, it all seems to be painting different pictures of what it looks like to follow Jesus. Do your best to make it concrete for your few. (Hint: Sharing an example from your own life will help a lot!) Ultimately, encouraging students to just take their faith one step at a time will help not only make it more concrete, but less overwhelming for them to actually apply to their lives.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

JUST FOR FUN

What's the most difficult or overwhelming task you've ever tried to complete?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's one positive thing a middle schooler might say about someone who follows Jesus?
2. What's one negative thing a middle schooler might say about someone who follows Jesus?
3. On a scale of 1 to 10, how hard do you think it is to live the way Jesus lived? (1 being super easy and 10 being really difficult.)
4. What's one thing that might stop you from taking a step toward following Jesus?
5. How might your life look different if you followed Jesus?

XP (EXPERIENCE)

In the middle of your group, place the provided cards for everyone to view. Challenge your students to take a step toward Jesus this week by selecting a card and actually doing what it says. Once they've selected their cards, provide your few with attainable ways they can accomplish the step they've chosen. (Your Ministry Leader will give you some ideas!).

TAKING A STEP TOWARD JESUS

I'LL TAKE A STEP TOWARD JESUS BY:

Reading the Bible Regularly

THIS IS HOW I'LL DO IT:

TAKING A STEP TOWARD JESUS

I'LL TAKE A STEP TOWARD JESUS BY:

Donating my time

THIS IS HOW I'LL DO IT:

TAKING A STEP TOWARD JESUS

I'LL TAKE A STEP TOWARD JESUS BY:

Completing a daily devotional

THIS IS HOW I'LL DO IT:

TAKING A STEP TOWARD JESUS

I'LL TAKE A STEP TOWARD JESUS BY:

**Listening to worship
songs more often**

THIS IS HOW I'LL DO IT:

TAKING A STEP TOWARD JESUS

I'LL TAKE A STEP TOWARD JESUS BY:

**Forgiving someone I'm
holding a grudge against**

THIS IS HOW I'LL DO IT:

TAKING A STEP TOWARD JESUS

I'LL TAKE A STEP TOWARD JESUS BY:

**Asking more questions
about Jesus**

THIS IS HOW I'LL DO IT:

TAKING A STEP TOWARD JESUS

I'LL TAKE A STEP TOWARD JESUS BY:

Ending a bad habit

THIS IS HOW I'LL DO IT:

TAKING A STEP TOWARD JESUS

I'LL TAKE A STEP TOWARD JESUS BY:

Praying every day

THIS IS HOW I'LL DO IT:

TAKING A STEP TOWARD JESUS

I'LL TAKE A STEP TOWARD JESUS BY:

THIS IS HOW I'LL DO IT:

TAKING A STEP TOWARD JESUS

I'LL TAKE A STEP TOWARD JESUS BY:

THIS IS HOW I'LL DO IT:

TAKING A STEP TOWARD JESUS

I'LL TAKE A STEP TOWARD JESUS BY:

THIS IS HOW I'LL DO IT:

TAKING A STEP TOWARD JESUS

I'LL TAKE A STEP TOWARD JESUS BY:

THIS IS HOW I'LL DO IT:
