

FOLLOW THE LEADER (BEING DISCIPLE)

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We've all played the game 'Follow the Leader' where one person leads and tells you what to do and the rest follow. You may even follow this leader if they tell you to do something that is not safe. And the leaders change with each game. And then when the game is over, you stop following the leader.

But our leader is Jesus. Jesus has told us everything we need to know. The Bible is where we can learn all the things Jesus has told us to do - how to live our life, treat others, love others and get to heaven. And He did not just tell us what to do, He DID IT ALL as an example for us. Jesus did it first and then asked us to follow His example. And Jesus would never tell us to do anything that was bad for us either.

Jesus is referred to as the Good Shepard. Now what does that mean? In Jesus' time, a shepard took care of the sheep. The sheep did not know where to go for food or shelter or safety. So the shepard's job was to watch over the sheep, make sure they had enough to eat/drink, and they were safe. He protected them from all harm. Once the sheep learned the shepard's voice, they would follow him because they trusted him.

Now Jesus is a Good Shepard to **us**. He does not want us to hunger for the truth - He gave us all the wisdom we need to know in the Bible. Jesus will never leave us, no matter how bad we behave (not forsake us). And He will always protect us from evil.

In fact, Jesus gave His life to protect us from sin. His death and resurrection allows us a path to get to heaven for eternity. We just have to accept Him as our savior.

The first men that followed Jesus were called disciples. Jesus called each of them personally to follow Him. They spent over 3 years with Jesus. where Jesus taught them many things about the love of God the Father. He taught them how to live their lives to please the Father. Jesus taught them the only way to get to heaven was through Jesus, the Messiah. He then instructed them to teach others. So then the disciple of Jesus would make his own disciple (a follower of Jesus).

Questions:

- 1) Where can we find all the directions to led our life as Jesus wants us to?
- 2) Is it easy to follow Jesus?
- 3) How do you become a disciple?
- 4) What do you need to do to go to heaven?

BIBLE VERSES

Jesus calling his disciples

Matthew 4:19

And he saith unto them, **Follow me**, and I will make you fishers of men.

Matthew 8:22

But Jesus said unto him, **Follow me**; and let the dead bury their dead.

Matthew 9:9

And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, **Follow me**. And he arose, and followed him.

Matthew 16:24

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and **follow me**.

Jesus will never leave you

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will **never leave thee, nor forsake thee**.

Jesus as the Good Shepard

John 10:3-4

To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. ⁴And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice

John 10:27

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they **follow** me:

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd: the **good shepherd giveth his life** for the sheep.

Jesus sending the Disciples out to make more disciples

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.