

STORYLINE

Group Discussion Guide // Week 2

WARM-UP

1. Who is one of your favorite characters from a story you read or a movie you watched growing up? What made you like that character?
 2. What's one major takeaway you had from Sunday's sermon?
 3. For you, what's the biggest hurdle to following Jesus?
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TRUTH

*And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."
And immediately they left their nets and followed him. (Mark 1:17-18)*

Last week we looked at the story of Christianity called the gospel. For a person who wants to make the gospel their story, the next step is following Jesus. When Jesus called the first disciples to follow him, he had something very specific in mind. Here's what following Jesus meant for them and what it also means for us:

Leave

And immediately they left their nets and followed him. (Mark 1:18)

Either the young fishermen were going to stay put and keep on fishing or follow Jesus. They couldn't do both. Following Jesus means he becomes the one who determines our direction. Career, family, wealth, goals – these are all good things, but they can't have final say over where you go in life. Following Jesus means he alone gets that role.

Discussion Question

What is it about "leaving" that can make people nervous?

Do

"Follow me..." (Mark 1:17)

Following Jesus means doing what he tells you to do. Although this offends our modern, individualistic sensibilities, that's exactly what the disciples signed up for. They followed Jesus, sat under his teaching, and carried out the tasks he gave them – baptizing people, preaching the gospel, healing, etc. Through the Bible, guidance from the Holy Spirit, and the counsel of others, Jesus tells us what to do. Following him means doing it.

Discussion Question

If the disciples hadn't pre-decided to do whatever Jesus told them, how would that have affected their growth?

GRACE

Growth

"...I will make you become fishers of men." (Mark 1:17)

The disciples made all the right commitments – to follow and obey – but their own efforts didn't make them fishers of people. Jesus did. He patiently brought about growth in their lives despite their failure at times to faithfully follow. Jesus promises to transform our lives by his power and grace. He asks us to trust him, to see him for who he is, the Son of God, and to follow him. When we consider who Jesus is and what he promises to do, following him makes all the sense in the world.

CHANGE

1. What step is Jesus currently asking you to make in your journey of following him? What about it is difficult?
2. Whether you've made the decision to follow him or not, what is it about Jesus that you think makes him worth following?
3. How have you seen the work of Jesus in your life produce growth over the past few months?

Pray for a vision of Jesus that gives you courage to follow him in every aspect of your life.