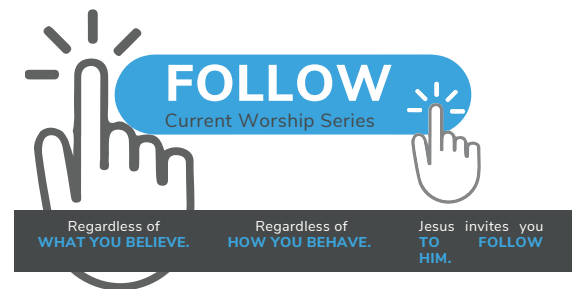


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WEEK 4: Cost to Follow



CONNECT MEMBERS TO EACH OTHER

Have you seen *The Chosen*?

Are there any other faith-based shows or movies that you have enjoyed and would recommend?

CONNECT MEMBERS TO GOD

Though this message series is focused on the actions we take to become a disciple of Jesus, it's important to remember that the relationship that we have with Jesus is based on what He has done for us. We follow Jesus because He invites us to do so, and He gave up His life for us so that we can inherit His kingdom.

Think about other relationships that are similar in nature to God's relationship with His creation. What are their similarities? What are their differences?

How would you describe your relationship with God at this point in your life?

LIFE APPLICATION

"If you want to follow Jesus, He's going to interfere with your life. He's gonna interfere with your freedom and your free time and your finances. He's gonna interfere with your relationships and your reputation." (Pastor Chuck Schlie)

Share a time when being a Jesus follower affected your life in one of the ways Pastor Schlie describes.

GOSPEL READING

The story in the Bible of Nicodemus shines a spotlight on the Pharisees. They were holy men who placed great emphasis on rule-following as a way of earning God's favor. Jesus upends their lives by preaching mercy, grace, and the forgiveness of sins. In John 3:3, Jesus tells Nicodemus, **"I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."**

Nicodemus struggles with understanding what Jesus meant. What does the phrase "born again" mean to you in the context of your faith?

If you grew up in a household of faith, was your religious instruction based on rules and obedience or love and forgiveness (or maybe somewhere in the middle)? Discuss how your early introduction to religion affects your faith today.

STOP AND THINK

This message put a focus on the distinction between "believing" in Jesus and "following" Jesus. Had you ever considered this distinction before? What are you learning about these differences that is affecting how you practice your faith?