



# Follow

## PART ONE: JESUS SAYS

Jesus says to pray. Jesus says not to look over there. Jesus says to be nice. Jesus says to get up early and read your Bible. Lots of people think Christianity is all about doing what Jesus says. But what if doing what Jesus says isn't what Jesus says to do at all? Regardless of what you believe. Regardless of how you behave. Jesus invites you to follow Him.

**BIG IDEA:** Jesus invites unbelievers and misbehavers to follow Him.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about one of your favorite bosses, coaches, or teachers. What made it easy for you to follow that person?
2. Did you grow up in a church that emphasized doing what Jesus says over following him? Or if you didn't grow up going to church, did you assume that's what Christianity was all about? How has the "Jesus says" mindset affected your spiritual journey so far?
3. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Matthew 9:9-13.*

*As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners." Matthew 9:9-13*

4. What did the general public think of tax collectors like Matthew?
5. How have certain experiences in your life prevented you from developing relationships with other people? Can you imagine anything that might disqualify you from having a relationship with God?
6. In this passage, Jesus seems to be comfortable in the company of tax collectors and sinners, while the Pharisees express considerable outrage. What standards did Jesus have for choosing his relationships?
7. What does it mean to be "healthy" and "sick" as described in verse 12? Would you describe yourself as healthy or sick?
8. In the message, Dave said this about his own spiritual journey: "When I got better at doing what Jesus says, it didn't make me more like Jesus. In fact, it made me more judgmental." How does that statement align with your own spiritual journey or with your experiences interacting with Christians?
9. How is the idea that Jesus wants everyone to follow him regardless of what they believe or how they behave comforting? How is it challenging?
10. What are some things that make it difficult for you to follow Jesus?
11. What is one thing you can do this week to begin to follow Jesus or to follow him more closely? What can this group do to support you?



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## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Jesus extends his invitation to people who know something's wrong but aren't sure what to do about it. He invites people who know they are not all they ought to be. He didn't ask Matthew to clean up his act before following him, and Jesus doesn't ask that of us. In time, within the context of his relationship with Jesus, Matthew experienced incredible life transformation. But Jesus' initial request and his request from there on out is simply, "Follow me." Will you follow Jesus Christ?

## MOVING FORWARD

At the end of the day, the question isn't how far along on your spiritual journey you are, but whether you're following Jesus. Begin tomorrow morning with this prayer: *"Lord, where you lead, I will follow."*

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Mark 8:34*