



Series: “Following The Way”
Week 1 Group Study Guide
Message: “Follow Me.”

SCRIPTURE

Main Text:	Cross References:
<i>Mark 2:13–17</i>	<p><i>Romans 8:29</i> “...conformed to the image of His Son”</p> <p><i>Romans 5:8</i> “While we were still sinners...”</p> <p><i>Matthew 16:24–25</i> “Deny yourself... follow me”</p> <p><i>Hebrews 12:1</i> “Throw off everything that hinders...”</p> <p><i>2 Corinthians 5:19</i> “God was reconciling...”</p> <p><i>Matthew 5:3</i> “Blessed are the poor in spirit...”</p>

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

Read Mark 2:13–14

Main Idea: Jesus sees Levi sitting at the tax collector's booth and calls him to follow.

Discussion Question:

1. What stands out to you about **where** Jesus meets Levi?
2. What is significant about Levi's job as a tax collector?
3. What does this tell us about how Jesus approaches people with broken or messy pasts?
4. What is significant about Jesus inviting Levi to follow him?

Read Mark 2:14b

Main Idea: Levi got up and followed Jesus!

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Levi have to leave behind in order to follow Jesus?
2. What does this show us about the nature of responding to Jesus' call?

Read Matthew 16:24–25 (Cross Reference)

Main Idea: Jesus explains what it takes to follow Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Jesus define discipleship in this passage?
2. Why is "denying yourself" necessary?

3. What are some ways people try to follow Jesus while still holding onto their old life?

Read Mark 2:15–16

Main Idea: Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners at Levi's house.

Discussion Question:

1. Why do you think Levi's first response is to invite Jesus into his home?
2. What does the dinner table scene reveal about who Jesus welcomes?
3. Who is missing from the table—and why does that matter?

Read Mark 2:17

Main Idea: Jesus explains His mission.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Jesus mean when He says He came for the “sick”?
2. How does this challenge religious pride or self-righteousness?
3. Why do people who know they're broken often respond more quickly to Jesus?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Where do you see yourself in this story right now?
 - Sitting in the booth
 - Getting up to follow
 - At the table with Jesus
 - Watching from a distance
2. What part of your past, identity, or reputation is hardest to leave behind?
3. Are there voices—internal or external—that make it hard for you to believe Jesus would call you?
4. What does following Jesus look like for you right now, not in theory?
5. What might Jesus be asking you to leave behind in order to follow Him?

LIVING IT OUT

- **Identify things from your past that you need to leave behind as you follow Jesus this year.**
- **Take one step of obedience this week that reflects a wholehearted “yes” to Jesus.**
- **Invite Jesus into your everyday spaces — work, home, relationships—like Levi did.**
- **When criticism or shame shows up, remind yourself: “Jesus defines me, not my past.”**

- **Pray daily:** “*Jesus, I choose to follow You today. Lead me, shape me, change me.*”

ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER

Share:

- What does following Jesus cost you right now?
- What makes it hard—or scary—to leave the booth behind?

Pray together:

Ask God for courage to leave old identities behind, grace to trust Jesus fully, and strength to walk in the newness of life as true disciples. Close by thanking Jesus for calling ordinary, broken people—and still calling us and healing us today.