

DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

DISCUSSION GUIDES

EVERY MONDAY

Discussion Guide

Sunday Sermon 4.5.26



Exalting Jesus in Easter Part 3: Admirer or Follower?

This guide is designed to help your family or group take what was taught on Sunday and move from simply hearing the information to applying it in ways that build up and encourage one another. Feel free to adjust the depth and number of questions based on your time and the size of your group.

Access the Sermon on the Website & App:

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How to Access the OBC App?

- 1 Open your App Store
- 2 Search "Olivet Baptist"
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The smartphone screen shows the app interface with the following content:
- Time: 9:28
- Search bar with 'o' and 'o' icons
- 'Sunday Mornings' section with a church image and the text 'Let us all work to be working together.'
- 'PODCAST FEEDBACK FORM' section with a microphone icon and the text 'Podcast Feedback Form'.
- Bottom navigation bar with icons for Home, Search, Library, Profile, and Settings.

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by thanking God for the truth of Easter and asking Him to open hearts and minds to honestly examine whether we are admirers or true followers of Jesus.

Key Scripture

Luke 24:1-45 (Focus on verses 31, 41, and 45)

Main Sermon Points

1. The Difference Between Admiring and Following

- Admiration doesn't require surrender
- The rich young ruler (Mark 10) admired Jesus but walked away when called to surrender
- Following Jesus demands giving up everything that stands between us and Him

2. The Evidence Wasn't Enough

- Those around Jesus saw the empty tomb, the linen cloths, heard from angels and even saw Him
- They were "greatly perplexed" and "marveled" but still didn't believe (Luke 24:11, 41)
- Even seeing the risen Jesus wasn't immediately enough for some

3. Understanding Comes Through Scripture

- Jesus opened their understanding through the Word (Luke 24:27, 45)
 - He "expounded to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself"
 - They knew Him "in the breaking of bread" - when He explained the Word
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Discussion Questions

Section 1: Personal Reflection

1. **The Central Question:** Are you an admirer of Jesus or a genuine follower? What's the honest difference in your own life?

2. The pastor said, "Admiration doesn't require surrender." What areas of your life have you been unwilling to surrender to Jesus? What's holding you back?
3. The rich young ruler wanted eternal life but on his own terms. In what ways do we try to follow Jesus "on our terms" in modern American Christianity?

Section 2: Wrestling with Belief

4. The disciples had overwhelming evidence but "still did not believe" (Luke 24:41). Why do you think physical evidence alone wasn't enough for them? What does this teach us about faith?
5. Bottom line: what is your life telling you? Is it telling you that you simply believe Jesus exists or is it telling you that He has changed you because you are seeking to follow Him in every area of your life?
6. Do you have to tell people you are a follower of Jesus or can they clearly see it by the way you live before them?

Section 3: The Power of Scripture

7. Jesus opened the disciples' understanding through the Scriptures (Luke 24:45). How consistently are you getting into God's Word—not just to check a box, but to actually know Him?
8. The testimony shared in the sermon was about a man whose life changed when he finally started studying Scripture to know God and understand His will for his life, not just reading it. What's the difference? What would it look like for you to move from reading to studying deeply to be transformed.
9. **Practical Question:** What specific obstacles keep you from regular, meaningful time in God's Word? (Be honest—busyness, lack of interest, confusion, etc.)

Section 4: Living as Followers

10. The pastor said: "If you're not pursuing that relationship with God for other people, you're not following Jesus." How does this statement challenge you? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
11. Jesus pursued humanity for relationship. As His body on earth, we're called to do the same. Who in your life needs to hear the gospel? What's preventing you from sharing it?

12. The sermon asked: "Has the world conformed you?" In what specific ways have you allowed culture to squeeze you into its mold rather than being transformed by God's Word?

Key Takeaways

- ✓ **Following requires surrender** - Admiration is passive; following demands everything
 - ✓ **Evidence alone doesn't produce faith** - The disciples needed Scripture opened to them by Jesus
 - ✓ **Transformation comes through God's Word** - We can't know God apart from His revelation and grace
 - ✓ **Followers pursue others** - Just as God pursued us, we're called to pursue relationships with the lost
 - ✓ **Time is short** - We're not guaranteed tomorrow; today is the day to follow fully
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to commit to this week:

Option 1: Scripture Study

- Spend 15-30 minutes daily reading and studying (not just skimming) God's Word
- Ask: "What is God showing me about Himself? How does this apply to my life?"
- Journal one insight each day

Option 2: Honest Inventory

- List areas where you've been an "admirer" rather than a "follower"
- Pray specifically about surrendering these areas to Jesus
- Share with one trusted person for accountability

Option 3: Gospel Conversation

- Identify one person in your life who needs to hear about Jesus
- Pray for them daily

- Look for an opportunity this week to share your testimony or invite them to church

Option 4: Eliminate One Conformity

- Identify one specific way the world has "conformed" you
 - Take concrete steps to remove that influence and replace it with God's truth
 - Ask someone to hold you accountable
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Closing Reflection

Read together: Romans 12:1-2

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Final Question: What is one specific way you will move from admiring to following this week?

Closing Prayer

Pray for one another:

- That God would reveal areas where we've been admirers rather than followers
 - For courage to surrender everything to Jesus
 - For understanding as we study His Word
 - For opportunities to share the gospel with others
 - That we would not be conformed to the world but transformed by truth
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"Blessed are those who believe without seeing." - Jesus (John 20:29)