

Following Jesus [Believe] Discussion Guide

Summary

This sermon launches a new series on discipleship by establishing the foundational requirement for following Jesus: genuine belief. Drawing from John chapter 6, Jonathan contrasts the crowd who followed Jesus for the miracles and free meals with those who were truly committed to Him. Jesus confronted the crowd's transactional mindset, redirecting them from seeking what He could give to seeking who He actually is. The central message is that Jesus is the Bread of Life, and only by truly believing in Him can we find lasting spiritual satisfaction.

Jonathan unpacks the Greek word "pisteuo," explaining that biblical belief is not merely intellectual agreement but an act of complete trust, reliance, and personal surrender to Jesus. Using Romans 10:9-10, the sermon challenges listeners to move beyond surface-level faith into genuine discipleship. This means confessing Jesus as Lord openly, not just privately, and allowing that belief to reshape every area of life. Discipleship begins not with rule-following or religious activity, but with truly believing in Jesus and making Him Lord.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come to You today with open and honest hearts. We acknowledge that we do not always come to You with the right motives, and sometimes we seek Your gifts more than we seek You. As we study Your Word, we ask that You would quiet the noise in our minds and soften any hardness in our hearts. Help us to be truly open to what You want to speak into each of our lives today. We do not want to

just talk about You, Lord. We want to truly know You and follow You more deeply. Guide our conversation, stir our faith, and let this time draw each of us closer to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you are genuinely passionate about that you find yourself naturally talking about with others?

Key Verses

- John 20:30-31
- John 6:22-35
- Matthew 16:24-25
- John 1:12
- Romans 10:9-10
- 1 John 5:4-5
- Philippians 3:7-8

Questions

- The crowd in John 6 followed Jesus primarily because He fed them, not because they truly understood who He was. In what areas of your own life have you found yourself seeking what Jesus can give you more than seeking Jesus Himself?
- Jesus told the crowd, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again' (John 6:35). What are some things you have chased in life hoping they would finally satisfy you, and how did that turn out?
- Jonathan described the difference between believing about Jesus and truly believing in Jesus. How would you explain that difference in your own words, and where do you personally land on that spectrum right now?
- Romans 10:9-10 connects believing in your heart with confessing openly with your mouth. Why do you think Paul

links these two things together, and what does it look like practically to confess Jesus as Lord in your everyday life?

- Jonathan pointed out that the church often does a better job explaining Jesus as Savior than explaining Jesus as Lord.

What does it actually mean to you for Jesus to be Lord of your life, and what areas are hardest to surrender to Him?

- Paul wrote in Philippians 3:7-8 that he counted everything as worthless compared to knowing Christ. What is something in your life that you have had to let go of, or still need to let go of, in order to follow Jesus more fully?

- The disciples in Acts said they could not stop talking about what they had seen and heard, even under threat of punishment. What would it look like for your faith to be that visible and that natural in your relationships and daily conversations?

- Jonathan asked four honest self-examination questions: Where am I still looking for bread instead of the Bread of Life? Am I confessing or just believing quietly? What would it mean to give Jesus my entire life? Am I willing to let Jesus change me? Which of these questions hits closest to home for you, and why?

Life Application

This week, pick one area of your life where you have been holding back from fully surrendering to Jesus as Lord. It could be your finances, a relationship, your career, your time, or even a habit or fear. Spend time each day this week intentionally praying over that area and telling God, 'You are Lord over this too.' Also, look for one natural opportunity to mention your faith to someone in your life who may not know where you stand. It does not have to be a formal conversation. Just let Jesus come up because He matters to you.

Key Takeaways

- Discipleship begins with genuine belief in Jesus, not just knowledge about Him. The Greek word 'pisteuo' means placing your complete trust, reliance, and personal surrender in Jesus, not simply agreeing with facts about Him.
- It is possible to follow Jesus for the wrong reasons, seeking His blessings and miracles while never truly committing to Him as Lord. Jesus calls us to desire the Giver, not just the gifts.
- Jesus declared Himself to be the Bread of Life, meaning He alone is the true and lasting source of spiritual satisfaction. Everything else we chase is temporary and will leave us empty again.
- Real belief produces real change. You cannot truly believe in Jesus and remain the same person. Genuine faith reshapes your identity, your values, your priorities, and how you live every day.
- Confessing Jesus as Lord is not just a private, internal decision. It is a public declaration of exclusive allegiance that should be visible in how you speak, how you treat others, and how you live your life.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for this time together and for the truth of Your Word that challenges and transforms us. We confess that we have not always come to You with the right heart. We have sometimes wanted Your blessings more than Your presence. Forgive us for that, and draw us back to what truly matters. We declare together that You are not just our Savior but our Lord. Help each of us to take a real step this week toward surrendering that one area we identified to You. May our belief be more than words. May it be the kind of deep, life-changing trust that reshapes everything about how we live. Thank You that You are the Bread of Life, and that

whoever comes to You will never be hungry again. We come to You now. In Your precious and holy name we pray, amen.