



Week 1 Group Guide Following Jesus

Group Covenant and Guidelines (explained by MSC leader or GG facilitator)

Personal Prayer

Use these words from *Godspell*: “O dear Lord, three things we pray: To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly . . . day by day.” Everyone pray this prayer quietly.

Icebreaker

Answer each of the following questions in one sentence. Go around the group as each person takes a turn answering question 1, then move on to question 2, and so on.

- Where were you born? Where is the place you lived longest?
- Who was a hero or role model you had growing up?
- What is a favorite food (and when was the last time you had it)?
- Where is one place in the world you would LOVE to visit?
- How long have you been at Living Word?
- Do you have a favorite book in the Bible?

Overview of the Main Theme

Jesus invites people to become his disciples (or followers): to be with Jesus, to learn from Jesus, to become like Jesus, and to work alongside Jesus. That is what disciples do. But it requires choice, trust, love, and obedience.

Desired Outcome

To learn the most important things Jesus said about being his disciple and have a desire to be that kind of disciple.

Story Sharing

Either the mid-size community leader or the growth group facilitator will share their story.

Learning About Being a Disciple of Jesus, Part One

Normally, you have all the material in the *Rooted* book to discuss. The first lesson is different, as *Rooted* has very little material for this week. Instead, take a few minutes and read the following passages about Jesus and discipleship (they are on the back of the page). For each passage ask: What are the most important lessons on discipleship that YOU need to hear? Jot down some ideas as your group discusses the passages.

There is a famous book titled *The Cost of Discipleship*, and another book has the title *Disciples Are Made Not Born*. What ideas come to mind as you think of these titles?

Group Discernment

As a group, what do you think Jesus is saying to the group about being his disciple? What invitation is the group hearing from Jesus? What response is being asked for?

Closing Prayer

One more time, everyone quietly prays the *Godspell* prayer, but quietly pray and reflect in light of what you have learned and discerned during your group time.

Reminders for Next Week

Begin doing the daily devotionals starting on page 20.

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Mark 1:14–20 (also see Matthew 4:17–22)

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for

their soul?

Matthew 16:21–26

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:34–40

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18–20

Come follow me . . . As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.

Matthew 4:19; John 20:21

