

***“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” Mark 8:34***

**INTRODUCTION:** 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. You're invited to be...with Jesus.

**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 does the “Jesus says” mindset affect your spiritual journey?
3. 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?
4. 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?

**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.”