



Small Group Questions: To Follow Jesus

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Read

Matthew 13: 3-8, James 2:14-17, Luke 11:11-13, Romans 12:2, and Isaiah 55:8-9

Reflect

Many of us make resolutions for the New Year. We want a fresh start. We want our lives to matter...to be significant. But people tend to break around 25% of those resolutions within the first week of January. Are you really “resolved” to change? How do you really institute change? Pastor Greg told us that a life well lived stems from making a series of small choices. These small choices...these decisions can add up to big change.

Can you think of a time when some seemingly small decisions led to huge change or breakthrough for you?

In this series, we will identify four decisions that can really set the tone for your new year and lead to significant change. The first decision is:

1. I have decided to follow Jesus.
 - a. Are you a believer and a Christ-follower? What do you consider yourself to be? What is the difference?

Pastor Greg offers three suggestions to help us truly follow Jesus:

1. Study his tendencies.
 - a. What does Jesus do? Read his words. How does he typically respond in situations of conflict? How does he show his love for people? What and how does he teach?
2. Learn to listen for His voice.
 - a. God speaks through His word. Can you think of instances or specific Bible passages where you knew God was speaking to you?
 - b. God may speak through other people or through circumstances. Do you expose your decisions to wise counsel? How do you crosscheck your decisions?
 - c. Create margin to listen. Do you have time set aside in your day, or specific methods to hone your listening skills? Where can you create some margin?
3. Act on His word.
 - a. James 2:14 states that faith should be accompanied by action. How are you showing your faith? What kind of example do you think you are to others about living out faith? Take risks. Do you use Jesus’s tendencies as your example?

Pastor Greg also mentions some important assumptions we can make when following Jesus:

1. His will for me is good.
 - a. Read Luke 11:11-13 and Isaiah 55: 8-9. God’s will is perfect. Oftentimes, what we want is different from what He wants. What examples do you have in your life where God chose something different than you wanted, but it turned out to be a blessing?
2. His will for me will be helpful to others.
 - a. Name an instance where God has used your difficulties to help someone else.
3. Decide in advance that if you act on His word, you will follow through.
 - a. Can you think of a time when you made an emotional decision in the moment that ended up being contrary to God’s will? Or an instance where planning in advance made all the difference?

Will you take the 30-Day challenge?

Gospel Challenge: Read the Gospels in 30 Days

Reading plan ideas:

- Read three chapters of the Gospels each day.
- Read each gospel consecutively, or perhaps read a chapter a day from Matthew, Luke and John, and once finished, read Mark.

Respond

- What do you feel like God is asking you to do in response to the weekend message? What is your next step?
- How can your Small Group support you and hold you accountable in this?