

Small Group Discussion Outline



Read: Matthew 19:27; Mark 10:28; Luke 5:11; Luke 5:28



How do you think the disciples response to the call of Jesus applies to those who are called by Jesus today?



Who has been called to follow Jesus today?



Read: 1 Peter 2:21; Mark 8:34-38; Luke 3:6; Acts 17:30

The Bible makes it clear that Jesus came, not only to restore Israel's relationship with God, but to remove the barriers between all of humankind and God.

We have, therefore, all been called by Jesus to follow Him.



What kinds of things may we need to "leave behind" in order to follow Jesus? Explain.



Read: Colossians 3:1-17; Ephesians 5:1-4



Can you give some practical examples in everyday life of some of the things mentioned in this passage that need to be left behind?



Can you give some practical examples in everyday life of some of the things mentioned in this passage that need to be done?

Following Jesus does not just mean adhering to a moral code or set of rules. Following Jesus is something that radically changes a person's life so that as they grow in their knowledge of God and relationship with Him, their lives reflect God's presence to those they meet.

Following Jesus means imitating Him. Being His disciple means learning to do the things Jesus did the way Jesus did them.

Everything Jesus did He did through the power of the Holy Spirit - that same Holy Spirit has been promised to Christians who ask God to be filled with Him.

Following Jesus means exchanging our way of life for God's way of doing life. It also means seeing ourselves the way God sees us.



What do you think God sees when He looks at us?

Responding to the Call

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**Read: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; John 15:15; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 Peter 1:14-16;
1 Peter 2:9-10; Colossians 1:21-22**



In light of these passages, what does God see when He looks at us?



How does this view that God has of us impact our lives and our response to His call?

Following Jesus means leaving behind several elements of our lives: a way of thinking, a way of acting, and a way of viewing.

Use the chart below to compare our natural inclinations or viewpoint with God's way of doing life then discuss the impact that embracing God's way could have on your life. Write any notes you may wish to record or simply use the table as a discussion guide.

Way of Life	Our Way	God's Way	Impact
<i>Thinking</i>			
<i>Acting/Behaviour</i>			
<i>View of Ourselves</i>			
<i>View of Situations</i>			

Responding to the call of Jesus requires something of us.

It requires us to leave behind the limitations we see and to begin to believe the things that Jesus believes about us.

Yes, it requires effort. Yes, it costs us. Yes, it takes perseverance. Yes, we won't always succeed, but God has said that we can do it so we need to develop the persistence to keep on trying.

Exchanging our way of doing life for His means, not only leaving behind old patterns of behaviour and thought, but also amending our view of ourselves with God's view of us.

God sees His children and delights in everyone one of you.

What do you see?

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