

**LIFEGROUP STUDY**  
**FOLLOW ME: LET THE DEAD BURY THE DEAD**  
**March 7, 2021**

**LEADER NOTES**

**OVERVIEW**

Welcome back to our LifeGroup study, Follow Me. Over the six-weeks leading up to Easter, we're looking at Jesus' invitation – "Follow Me". When Jesus gives us this invitation, he expects us to leave everything. The first disciples left a lucrative catch and future conversations with would-be disciples have Jesus telling the rich to leave everything and to "Let the dead bury the dead." Today in group, we'll explore a question that confronted 3 would-be disciples in Luke 9 - "What do you need to leave behind?" Our goal in asking this question is that we would recommit our highest allegiance to Jesus.

**ICEBREAKER** Out with the Old!

When it comes to hanging on to things, do you tend to hoard or declutter? Share a story with your group about something you just can't get rid of, or that thing you couldn't wait to get rid of!

**STUDY**

1. On Sunday, Pete emphasized there is urgency to Jesus' call, "Follow Me". **What did he mean by this? How does this help shape how you see Jesus' call in your life?**

LEADER NOTE: Jesus' call, Follow Me, is urgent in our lives. We see this in the way he responded in Luke 9:57-62 to those who wanted to delay. Responding to Jesus' call is not something I should plan to do someday or even tomorrow. It is a call to respond now.

READ Luke 9:57-62. **The Cost of Following Jesus**

2. Jesus seems harsh in this passage. **Why do you think he is being so blunt/direct?**

LEADER NOTE: In Luke 9:51, Jesus has "resolutely" set out for Jerusalem. This is a big moment in Luke's gospel. This statement means that Jesus getting ready for the showdown that will happen in Jerusalem. Things are increasing in seriousness as he moves toward his execution. This is probably why his warnings are so blunt. Anyone who follows him from here on out will be entering deep water.

3. The first person in this account declares they would follow Jesus wherever he went. **Why do you think Jesus responded the way he did?** (see verses 57-58)

LEADER NOTE: Jesus responded in this way to warn the person about the cost of following Him. Perhaps this person thought following Jesus would mean glamour, promotion and prestige. Jesus wanted them to know what they were getting into. He was on his way to Jerusalem where he would suffer and die. The road ahead would be rough and unpredictable. Following Jesus in this context might mean you don't know where your next meal is coming from and you have no idea where or when you'll sleep next. Jesus repeatedly emphasized there is a cost to following Him. We should count the cost.

4. The second person in this account agrees to follow Jesus but then says, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father." Read Jesus' response again in verse 60. **What stands out to you about Jesus' response?**

LEADER NOTE: In verse 60, Jesus responds, "Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God." NLT. Jesus is essentially saying, "Let those who are spiritually dead, those who have not committed to follow Me, concern themselves with the things of this world. You have a new calling, to prioritize the kingdom of God!" This teaching should highlight an important principle for us. Following Jesus is about reordering our priorities in order to make His Kingdom #1 in our lives. When Jesus calls us to follow, He invites us to a responsibility to be active in advancing His kingdom. There is an urgency to this call. There is a commitment He asks us to make.

5. The third person in this account makes a verbal commitment to follow Jesus but then says, "...first let me go and say good-bye to my family." (vs. 61) Read Jesus' reply in verse 62. **What did Jesus mean by this? How does this speak to His call on our lives today?**

LEADER NOTE: In verse 62, Jesus replies, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God." In Jesus' day, a farmer would guide a light plow with his left hand and his oxen with the right. Looking back would result in the plow going off course. Jesus challenged this person not to look back by placing earthly concerns ahead of kingdom priorities. Jesus' call on our life is the same today. There is a song that says, "I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back." Our decision to follow Jesus means to not look back but to trust His grace and power to follow Him well.

6. Two of the people in the passage say they need to "first" do something else before they follow Jesus. Jesus makes it clear to them that the first thing they need to do is follow him, right now. **What things in your life do you find competing for your "first" that get in the way of following Jesus?**

LEADER NOTE: As your group members consider this question it can be helpful to remember the parable of the soils in Luke 8. In the explanation of that parable Jesus describes things that can

compete for #1 in our life. He mentions the “... cares and riches and pleasures of this life.” (vs. 14 NLT). We can easily be caught up in the *cares* of this life, the temporary issues that demand to be top priority. *Riches* are about the place of money in our life. Money wants to be our top priority. The *pleasures* of this life are about arranging our life so the pursuit of pleasure becomes our top priority. While we all have everyday responsibilities to attend to and money to manage and good pleasures to enjoy, Jesus wants us to assess their place our lives. What would your group members identify as being most in competition for # 1 place in their life – would be it the cares of this life, money or pleasure?

7. In today’s passage, Jesus equates His call, “Follow Me” with being actively involved in the “Kingdom of God.” (see vs. 60, 62) **What does it look like for us to do this today?**

LEADER NOTE: At Creekside, our mission is to Follow Jesus, Love God and Love People. Jesus teaches about this in Matthew 28:18-20 (The Great Commission) and Matthew 27:37-40 (The Great Commandment). Following Jesus is not about trying to earn His favour by being “good”. It’s about being actively involved in building His Kingdom!

8. Jesus words, “Follow Me” are an invitation for us to leave everything else behind. **What have you left behind to follow Jesus?**

LEADER NOTE: Things we may leave behind can include anything that can keep us from following Jesus as #1 in our lives. Over the years, followers of Jesus have left behind homes, possessions, family, relationships, worldly opportunities. While Jesus does not call each of us to leave all these things behind, he does ask us to be willing to give it all up for Him.

9. **What is a key takeaway for you from this week’s study on Jesus’ call, “Follow Me”?**

## PRAYER

This week let’s pray for our partner church in Quito, Ecuador.

- Pray for our partner church in Quito Ecuador, Carmen Bajo Alliance Church, as they continue to provide relief packages to the community, and for the church plant that they have started in the barrio of Subio Norte. Praise God for some families who have come to faith there and are forming the core of the church plant. Pray for God to build His Church there in the power of the Holy Spirit and through the witness of His people.

- Pray for our partner church Kitigoma Community Church near Jinja, Uganda, that the congregation would be strengthened in the Lord amidst so many concerns with Covid, the recent elections, and many questioning 'Why'. The economy is struggling and so are many. Pray for Pastor Robert and Justine as they lead their church through these tough times.
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