

The Life You Were Made For — Walking With Jesus

Key Scripture:

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

Big Idea

The Christian life is not simply about making a decision to follow Jesus and then figuring out life on our own. **It is learning to walk with Jesus—step by step, trusting his presence, his direction, and his finished work.**

The Bible begins with God walking with humanity in a garden and ends with God dwelling with his people in a restored garden-city. We live between those two gardens. Every ordinary day is an invitation to walk with Jesus.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Jesus, thank you that you don't simply call us to believe in you—you invite us to walk with you.

Thank you that your presence is with us in the ordinary moments, the difficult moments, the confusing moments, and the moments when our faith feels strong. Help us tonight to slow down and become aware of you.

Give us courage to be honest about where we're struggling to trust you. Help us recognize where we've been trying to lead instead of follow. And teach us what it means to trust you one step at a time.

As we talk together, help us listen well, encourage one another, and make room for you to speak into our lives.

We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

1. What do you remember from the sermon that caught your attention?

Leader Insight

This is an intentionally open question. Don't rush to add your own answer. Give people space to remember what **God may have highlighted for them**.

Listen for themes such as:

- Walking with Jesus rather than simply believing information about Jesus.
- Trusting God's presence even when we can't see where he's leading.
- The connection between the two gardens—Genesis and Revelation.
- Jesus as the light who guides us.
- Learning to walk with Jesus in ordinary, everyday moments.

Leader Tip:

If the group is quiet, ask:

"Was there a particular story, phrase, Scripture, or picture from the sermon that stayed with you?"

2. When you picture walking with Jesus, what does it look like on an ordinary day? Where does he feel closest and absent?

Leader Insight

This question helps move the discussion from theology to **everyday discipleship**.

Walking with Jesus isn't limited to church, Bible study, worship, or "quiet time." It includes:

- Driving to work
- Making breakfast
- Parenting
- Answering emails
- Doing chores
- Having difficult conversations
- Making decisions
- Dealing with disappointment
- Enjoying something beautiful

One of the challenges of discipleship is that we can mentally divide life into "spiritual" and "regular" activities. But Jesus is present in all of it.

When people say Jesus feels "absent," don't immediately correct them. Explore it.

Follow-up:

"What makes it easier for you to notice Jesus? What tends to make you forget he's there?"

Key Thought for Leaders

Sometimes Jesus hasn't become less present—we've simply become less attentive to his presence.

3. Believing in Jesus isn't a one-time decision you file away, it's how you walk. Read John 6:29 together. Why would Jesus call believing "work"? And what's the difference between believing in Jesus once, at the start of the walk, and believing him step by step along the way?

Leader Insight

John 6:29 says:

"The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

Jesus isn't suggesting that we earn salvation through hard work. Rather, he describes **ongoing trust in him as the posture of discipleship**.

There is a difference between:

- **"I believed in Jesus."**
- **"I am learning to trust Jesus today."**

The first can become an event in our past. The second is a relationship we live in every day.

Step-by-step believing might mean:

- Trusting Jesus with a decision we can't control.
- Trusting him when obedience costs us something.
- Trusting his character when circumstances don't make sense.
- Trusting his timing when we want answers now.
- Trusting his forgiveness when we feel condemned.
- Trusting his direction when we would choose another route.

Leader Tip

Be careful not to turn this into a discussion about whether someone has "enough faith." The emphasis is on **relationship and ongoing dependence**, not spiritual performance.

4. Walking with someone means trusting their pace and their route. Where has Jesus taken your life down a road you wouldn't have chosen—slower, harder, or just different? Looking back, do you trust his navigation more or less because of it? What did that stretch of road teach you about him?

Leader Insight

This can become a deeply meaningful question. Give people permission to share honestly without forcing anyone to disclose something deeply personal.

Jesus doesn't always take us by the shortest or easiest route.

Sometimes his pace feels:

- Too slow.
- Too uncertain.
- Too difficult.
- Completely different from what we imagined.

But hindsight can sometimes reveal what we couldn't see at the time.

Listen for what people learned about **Jesus himself**, not simply what they learned about themselves.

For example:

- "I learned that Jesus is patient."
- "I learned that he doesn't abandon me."
- "I learned I don't have to understand everything to trust him."
- "I learned that his timing isn't my timing."

Leader Follow-up

"Did that experience make it easier or harder to trust Jesus the next time you couldn't see where he was going?"

5. Why is Jesus trustworthy enough to walk with for a whole life? If a friend asked you, "Why should I trust him with my life?" what's the most honest answer you could give?

Leader Insight

This question gets beneath **what we believe about Jesus** to **why we trust him**.

Encourage people to answer personally rather than giving a theological textbook response.

Possible answers might include:

- Jesus has proven his love through the cross.
- Jesus understands our weaknesses.
- Jesus keeps his promises.
- Jesus doesn't abandon his people.
- Jesus offers forgiveness rather than condemnation.
- Jesus defeated sin and death.
- Jesus has been faithful in our own experience.
- Jesus is not simply asking us to trust a philosophy—he invites us to trust a person.

John 8:12 is especially important here: Jesus says, **"Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

The invitation isn't merely *"Believe these things about me."* It is *"Follow me."*

Leader Insight

A powerful answer may simply be:

"I trust Jesus because of who he is, not because I always understand what he's doing."

6. Read Mark 9:14–26. A father cries out to Jesus, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" and Jesus heals his son anyway. Where are you limping right now, believing and doubting at the same time? What does it tell you about Jesus that this father didn't have to sort out his faith before Jesus acted?

Leader Insight

This is an important opportunity to create a **safe environment for honest faith**.

The father doesn't pretend. His prayer contains both faith and doubt:

"I believe."

"Help my unbelief."

That may describe many of us.

We can believe Jesus is good and still be afraid.

We can believe Jesus is faithful and still wonder what he's doing.

We can trust him and still have questions.

The encouraging truth is that Jesus doesn't reject the father because his faith is imperfect.

Key Thought

Our faith doesn't have to be perfect for Jesus to meet us.

The father's faith isn't presented as a spiritual achievement that earns Jesus' help. Instead, he comes honestly to Jesus with the faith he has.

Leader Tip

Don't allow the group to turn this into a debate about whether someone has "enough faith." Keep bringing the conversation back to the **character of Jesus**.

Ask:

"What do you notice about Jesus' response to someone whose faith is mixed with doubt?"

7. Where in your life are you trying to walk beside Jesus as his advisor, or ahead of him as his planner, instead of behind him as his follower? What would dropping back into step look like?

Leader Insight

This may be one of the most practical questions in the study.

Sometimes we don't actually want Jesus to lead—we want him to **approve our plan**.

We may pray:

"Jesus, here's what I'm planning. Please bless it."

Instead, following Jesus asks:

"Jesus, where are you leading? What do you want me to do?"

Being a follower means surrendering:

- Our timeline
- Our preferred outcome
- Our need for control
- Our assumptions about what is best
- Our desire to know the whole route before taking the next step

Leader Follow-up

"What would one specific act of surrender look like this week?"

Encourage people toward something concrete rather than simply saying, "I need to trust Jesus more."

8. Read Genesis 2:15. The Hebrew word *'avad* is one word for work, serving God, and priestly worship. How would your actual job change if you worked consciously beside Jesus—in the meeting, the email, the hard conversation? Where at work do you most often live as if he isn't there?

Leader Insight

This question helps dismantle the sacred/secular divide.

Genesis 2:15 presents work as part of God's original design for humanity. Work isn't merely something that became necessary after the Fall.

The idea of walking with Jesus means **his presence comes into our workplace with us.**

That changes how we:

- Speak to difficult coworkers.
- Handle conflict.
- Respond to criticism.
- Lead people.
- Make ethical decisions.
- Handle stress.
- Treat customers.
- Write emails.
- Use authority.
- Respond when nobody is watching.

The question isn't simply, *"How can I talk about Jesus at work?"*

It is:

"What would it look like to do my work with Jesus?"

Leader Tip

Keep this practical. Ask someone to describe a real workplace situation and then ask:

"If Jesus were consciously present in that moment—which he is—what might change about how you respond?"

9. Pick one area of your life where you usually walk alone, and walk it with Jesus on purpose: a commute turned into prayer, a hard meeting you'll enter asking "Jesus, walk in with me," a morning walk where you bring him the thing you can't solve. Name the place and the day—and name who in this group will ask you how it went.

Leader Insight

This is the **practice question**. Don't let the group finish with good discussion but no action.

The goal is not to create another spiritual obligation. The goal is to develop an intentional awareness of Jesus' presence.

Encourage each person to choose:

1. **One place**
2. **One day**
3. **One simple practice**
4. **One person for accountability**

Examples:

Commute:

"Jesus, thank you that you're with me. Help me see this day through your eyes."

Difficult meeting:

"Jesus, walk into this meeting with me. Help me listen, speak truthfully, and love this person."

Unresolved problem:

"Jesus, I can't solve this. I'm giving it to you again today."

Morning walk:

Use the first few minutes simply to become aware of God's presence.

Leader Challenge

Before everyone leaves, have each person complete:

The place: _____

The day: _____

My practice: _____

The person who will ask me about it: _____

Then encourage the group to actually follow up with one another.

Closing Thought for Leaders

The goal of this study isn't simply for people to **think more about Jesus**.

It's to help them become more aware that **Jesus is already with them**.

We don't have to wait for a dramatic spiritual experience before we walk with Jesus. We can practice his presence in the ordinary moments of life.

The invitation of John 8:12 is beautifully simple:

"Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

We don't need to know the entire route.

We simply need to stay close to the One who knows the way.

- This LifeGroup Discussion Guide has been generated by ChatGPT AI and edited by Jeff Austen.