



We Are...Followers

Jesus calls for followers, not fans. (Matthew 16:24-25). It's pretty easy, especially in America, to call yourself a fan of something. Being a fan, however, is very different from participating in or experiencing whatever we are fans of. God has called us to jump in and actively participate in the walk of faith. He wants us to be a follower, not a fan. Being a follower brings us life. Fortunately for us, God wants everyone on the team. Our past isn't too much for Jesus to forgive. The catch is, we must choose to become a follower. God won't make the choice for us or force our hand. We must choose to pursue a relationship and be all in. Deciding to follow Jesus won't instantly make us the perfect followers, but choosing Him everyday will bring incredible transformation and experiences. Our Good Shepherd is offering us a way to abundant life, and all we must do is choose to follow Him.

GET THINGS STARTED

Everyone has things that they are passionate about! Whether you are outwardly expressive or reserved with your passion, most everyone has something they love. It can be sports, movies, or even social media. What are you passionate about? How do you express your passion?

GO DEEPER

1. After reading Matthew 16:24-25, what must we do to follow Jesus? Who is invited to follow Jesus? Reflect on everything the cross represents both historically and spiritually. What is the importance of taking up your cross?
2. In Ephesians 1:17, what does Paul pray that the Church will receive? What is the end goal in his prayer? Why might this be his prayer for the Church? How does knowing God better impact our lives?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Looking back at your walk with Jesus, would you categorize yourself as a follower or a fan?
2. Out of the descriptions of a follower Pastor David mentioned, what descriptor (s) of a follower are you lacking in? What do you think is causing a lack in these areas? In what ways can you become more of a follower and less of a fan?
3. What cross do you need to take up daily to follow Christ? What is God asking you to pick up? Who in your life can help support you and keep you accountable in this?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group to pray specifically for growth in the journey of becoming a more mature follower of Christ. Pray for a faithful endurance to keep taking steps. Throughout the next week, keep each other accountable in reaching your next step.