

FOLLOW WEEK 1 — Learn to Be With Jesus

Many of us try to follow Jesus the way we use tools without reading the manual—guessing, rushing, and hoping it works.

We serve. We volunteer. We lead. We do a lot for Jesus. But Jesus' first invitation was never "Do more." It was simply: "Come, follow Me." (Matthew 4:19)

Before belief systems. Before ministry. Before mission — - FOLLOW! (Be with. Walk alongside.)

Discipleship doesn't begin with productivity—it begins with proximity.
You can't become like Jesus without being with Jesus.

POINT 1: Discipleship Begins With Proximity, Not Productivity

Mark 3:14 – "He appointed twelve that they might **be** with Him, and that He might send them out."

Notice the order: With Him first — then sent out.

In Jesus' world, a disciple (talmid) didn't just learn teachings—they learned a **way of life**:
Walked like the rabbi / Ate like the rabbi / Prayed like the rabbi / Lived like the rabbi

Jewish saying: "May you be covered in the dust of your rabbi." Some of us want Jesus' power without His pace. But transformation starts with staying close.

POINT 2: Abiding Is Not a Feeling — It's a Practice

John 15:4 – "Abide in Me, and I in you."

The word abide means to remain, dwell, and make your home. God doesn't want visits. He wants residence.

Jesus practiced abiding through:

- Regular withdrawal and prayer (Luke 5:16)
- Scripture meditation, not speed-reading
- Sabbath rest

Psalms 137:6 – "One thing I ask from the Lord... that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life." You don't drift into abiding. You practice it.

POINT 3: Scripture Is Not Information — It's Formation

Jesus didn't just quote Scripture—He lived inside it.

John 8:31 – "If you remain in My word, you are truly My disciples." Scripture was meant to shape our instincts, not just our beliefs.

"Being with Jesus means allowing His words to shape our instincts—not just our beliefs."
— Koch & McNaughton If God's Word isn't forming us, something else is.

QUESTION 1: What stood out for you? (New, reminder, different perspective?)

QUESTION 2: Talk about abiding: What could "feeling" it mean vs "practicing" it?

QUESTION 3: How are you "abiding"? What is your "practice" to keep proximity to Him?