

11-16-25 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide: Following Jesus - Our Primary Mission

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to speak to each person and help you honestly examine where you are in your walk with Christ.

Ice Breaker

Share one thing that commonly distracts you from your relationship with Jesus during a typical week.

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. ****Our Primary Job is Following Jesus**** - Not just being saved, but actively following Christ in daily life
2. ****Easy to Get Distracted**** - Like firefighters forgetting their main purpose, we can lose focus on following Jesus
3. ****Faith Without Action is Dead**** - Real faith in Christ produces movement and transformation
4. ****We Can't Help But Speak**** - When we truly follow Jesus, talking about Him becomes natural, not forced
5. ****Repentance Brings Refreshment**** - Turning to God brings renewal to our parched souls

Discussion Questions

Section 1: The Distraction Problem

1. In the opening illustration, the volunteers forgot their primary job was to put out fires. What "secondary tasks" in your Christian life have become more important than following Jesus?

2. The pastor mentioned that even after 47 years of ministry, his primary job isn't preaching—it's following Jesus. How does this perspective challenge your understanding of your role as a Christian?

3. Read Matthew 22:37-39. Why do you think Jesus ranked loving God and loving others as the top two commands? How well are you doing with these priorities?

Section 2: Following vs. Just Being Saved

4. The sermon emphasized that salvation is just the starting point, not the finish line. How would you describe the difference between "being saved" and "following Jesus"?

5. Read James 2:14-17. Why is faith without works considered dead? What does this mean for your daily life?

6. The pastor said, "You can claim Jesus and end up in hell, but you can't follow Jesus to hell." What do you think he meant by this statement? Do you agree or disagree?

Section 3: Peter and John's Example

7. Read Acts 3:1-10. Peter had no money but offered healing in Jesus' name. What do you think gave Peter the boldness to do this? What can we learn from his example?

8. In Acts 4:13, the religious leaders noticed that Peter and John were "unschooled, ordinary men" but recognized they had been with Jesus. What evidence in your life shows that you've been with Jesus?

9. Read Acts 4:18-20. Peter and John said, "We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." Why do you think many Christians today struggle to speak about Jesus?

Section 4: Personal Obstacles

10. The sermon asked: "How can I believe in this great Lord and Savior Jesus, but I can't ever talk about Him?" How would you answer this

question for yourself?

11. What are you more concerned about: how people see you or how Jesus sees you? Be honest.

12. The pastor shared a story about praying over something as simple as fixing a bread machine. Do you include Jesus in the small details of your life? Why or why not?

Section 5: Refreshment and Renewal

13. Read Acts 3:19. The passage promises "times of refreshing" when we repent and turn to God. Does your soul feel refreshed or parched right now? What might need to change?

14. Read Romans 12:1-2. What does it mean to offer your body as a "living sacrifice"? What would this look like practically in your life this week?

Personal Reflection Questions

Take 3-5 minutes of silence for individual reflection:

- If Jesus asked you right now, "Are you following me or just claiming me?" what would you honestly answer?
- What is one thing that consistently gets in the way of you following Jesus?
- When was the last time you couldn't help but speak about what Jesus has done for you?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge (Choose One or More):

1. ****Daily Following Practice****: Each morning this week, pray: "Jesus, I want to follow You today. Show me where You're leading." Then journal

what happens.

2. ****Remove One Distraction****: Identify one thing that regularly bumps Jesus out of first place in your life. Take practical steps to remove or limit it this week.
3. ****Share Your Story****: Tell at least one person this week about something Jesus has done in your life—even something small like the bread machine story.
4. ****Honest Assessment****: Complete this sentence in your journal: "I know I'm following Jesus when I..." Then evaluate if that's actually happening in your life.
5. ****Include Jesus in the Small Things****: For one week, consciously pray about and include Jesus in small, everyday decisions and situations.

Group Accountability:

- Pair up with another group member to check in mid-week about your chosen application.
- Share contact information and commit to praying for each other daily this week.

Memory Verse

****Acts 4:20**** - "For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Closing Prayer Points

Pray together for:

- Honest self-examination about where each person is in following Jesus
- Boldness to speak about Jesus like Peter and John

- Removal of distractions and obstacles in your walk with Christ
- Refreshment for parched souls in the group
- The courage to surrender everything to follow Jesus completely

Before Next Week

- Read Acts 4:23-37 in preparation for the next discussion
- Reflect on this question: "What would my life look like if I truly couldn't help but speak about Jesus?"
- Be ready to share one way you followed Jesus this week

Leader Notes

- Create a safe, non-judgmental environment where people can be honest about their struggles
- Don't let the discussion become about politics, denominations, or secondary issues—keep the focus on following Jesus
- Be prepared to share your own struggles with distraction and following Christ
- If someone shares that they're unsure about their salvation, offer to talk with them privately after the group
- The sermon was convicting—allow space for silence and reflection; don't feel the need to fill every moment with words