

**NORTHLAND
CHURCH**

MARCH 23-25, 2019

AWAKEN

... Following for Life

John 1:35-51

God, who calls us to follow Him

This week we're learning about Jesus' call to follow Him and the work He does when we take those steps of faith.

WATCH THE VIDEO

NorthlandChurch.net/Studies

Afterward have someone read the discussion questions in the "Hear God's Story" section and start the conversation.



Share Your Story

Begin by praying together. This should be a brief, simple prayer in which you invite God to give you insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of your time together or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

Then begin your time together by discussing the following questions.

- When have you seen someone following someone else's example?
- What makes it hard to follow someone? What makes it hard to lead someone?

Hear God's Story, and Create a New Story

READ JOHN 1:35-51 (NIV) & LUKE 19:10 (NIV)

- Whom did Jesus come to seek and save?
- Who are the people Jesus sought out in this story?
What are some of the different ways Jesus sought them out?
- What are some ways you've experienced Jesus seeking you out?
- What are some of the ways Jesus calls all of us to follow Him?
- What are some of the specific places in your life where you've responded to His call?
Where do you need to respond to His call more now?
- Jesus came both to seek *and* to save. When is a time you experienced His rescue when you followed Him? What's some of the transformation He has brought about in your life?

Give each person an opportunity to share prayer requests.

Find Your Story in God's Story

If you feel God is nudging you to go deeper, take some time between now and our next discussion to dig into His Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own, jotting your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. Want to go deeper? Select a few verses, and try paraphrasing them, writing them in your own words. If you'd like, share them with the group the next time you meet.

Jesus didn't start His ministry by describing His beliefs or demanding a statement of beliefs from His followers. He started with a call that became a refrain over His life: Follow Me. He invited every sort of person dealing with every sort of problem to express faith with his or her feet. Jesus centered His invitation around faith instead of the common calls of religion, such as morality, social standing and financial ability. In doing so, Jesus reminded us that it's faith alone that makes us right with God. It's never our abilities, because on our own, we always fall short of the glory of God. But when we're willing to set aside our abilities and instead embrace God's grace through the practice of faith, we can finally find real redemption and real life.

READ JOHN 10:7-18 (NIV)

- Why is Jesus doing all this work to seek, save and shepherd the lost?
(See John 10:10.)
- What are some of the things that cause us to wander and need rescue?
- What are some of the traits Jesus describes about Himself as the Good Shepherd?

READ MATTHEW 16:24-26 (NLT)

- To follow Jesus, what do we have to give up?
- What would happen if we tried to hang on to our lives on our own?
- What does it mean to you to take up *your* cross?
What are some ways you can put that into practice this week?

**This week's study is also available on Northland's apps
or at NorthlandChurch.net/Studies.**