

Series: Follow

Scripture and Background Information for September 11-17.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Basically, everyone has assumptions about Jesus and Christianity. What does it mean to be a Christian? What did Jesus invite people to do? What Jesus invited people to do is to follow him. The goal is people take the next step to follow Jesus. Which category are you in and what step is he asking of you:

- 1) Uninformed
- 2) Interested
- 3) Ready
- 4) Committed
- 5) Growing

Background for Mark 1:16-20:

At the beginning of the gospel of Mark Jesus comes to a group of fishermen, people whose life was focused on fishing and Jesus invites them to center their lives around a different purpose and calling. Jesus invites them to come and live with Him, to learn from Him and ultimately to leave for Him as “fishers of men”. This life as followers of Jesus was not just for those initial disciples, but it’s the life Jesus invites us into as well. In this first week of our series, we see that the calling of Jesus is to set aside what we once held close and instead respond to the invite of Jesus to build our lives around His calling on our lives, to be His witnesses where He’s sent us.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. What do you find most surprising about Jesus’ initial call to these disciples?
2. As you consider this from the disciples perspective, what might have been most compelling about Jesus invitation? What was the cost for them to follow Jesus?
3. What are those things in your life that Jesus’ call might mean you are to set aside? What barriers are there to setting those things aside?
4. As you think about following Jesus, what does that look like in our world today? Talk about the ideals of how that looks and what your current reality is in terms of following Jesus? What steps might the Lord be calling you to take in terms of following Him more faithfully this week?

Note: One great resource that focuses on this idea of following Jesus is the book, “Master Plan of Evangelism”. Coleman goes into the details of what that initial call looked like, but also the process Jesus implemented to invest in these first followers so that they could be sent out to change the world.