

Series: Follow

Scripture and Background Information for October 2-8.

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 10:17-27:

In our passage this week Jesus interacts with a man who was not called by Jesus to come and follow, but on his own came and sought Jesus out. He is commonly known as the "rich young ruler" and he comes to Jesus with a question, "*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*" It's incredible to consider that this man is wealthy and has power and yet recognizes there is something missing! Even more so, he seems to live out a morality that would have stood out to all. Yet a void remains and leads him to come to Jesus. Jesus and the man go back and forth on keeping the commandments, before Jesus then tells him to go sell everything and follow him. The man's response is one of sadness as he walks away. The key verse in this section is v.27 which comes after Jesus' statement about the difficulty of the rich getting into heaven, reminding all of us that salvation and eternal life are something God does for us, not something He requires from us.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. Take a look at the story right before this one in 10:13-16. How does this help us more fully understand what Jesus is and is not saying in His interaction with the rich young ruler?
2. For many, Jesus' response is not as clear as we would like. What might be some reasons Jesus answers the way He does rather than clearly just saying, "Believe in me."?
3. Jesus talks about the particular difficulties of being wealthy and inheriting eternal life. What are the reasons for that? Are riches on their own bad or to be avoided? If not, describe ideally how we are to relate to them.
4. As you think about this series as a whole in looking at what it means to really Follow Jesus how would you describe it now? What are you wanting to do differently as a result of this series and in this season of your life?

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.