

We Are the Church - Follow Me
November 10, 2024

As you join this discussion, let the Holy Spirit guide you. Share your thoughts and reflect on the message. Work through the guide by reading Scripture and answering a few questions.

Open Up Together:

- When you think of the word 'church,' what comes to mind first? How has that idea shaped your understanding of following Jesus?

Read Together:

Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore **go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Acts 11:26

...The **disciples** were called Christians first at Antioch.

Acts 6:7

So the word of God spread. The number of **disciples** in Jerusalem increased rapidly...

Acts 9:36

In Joppa there was a **disciple** named Tabitha; she was always doing good and helping the poor.

Luke 14:26

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.

Matthew 16:24-25

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

Luke 9:57-62

As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Matthew 4:18-22

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Luke 5:11

*So they pulled their boats up on shore, **left everything and followed him.***

Discuss Together:

- How would you define a disciple? How does it differ from the modern understanding of a "Christian"?
- What does "being the church" mean to you, and how might it align with Jesus' instructions in Matthew 28:19-20?
- What does it mean that the church's mission is to "make disciples" rather than just converts?
- What does it mean to give "allegiance" to Jesus, and how might that impact your daily life?
- How does the concept of discipleship as total "allegiance" to Jesus reshape our understanding of faith and salvation beyond just belief?
- In what ways does the New Testament term "disciple" challenge modern definitions of Christianity? Why might the early church have emphasized discipleship over a simpler identification as "Christian"?

- Is there something you feel Jesus is asking you to let go of to follow him more fully? What might that look like?

Pray Together:

As a group, pray for guidance in following Jesus more closely, for the courage to let go of anything holding you back, and for strength to live as true disciples who reflect His love to others.