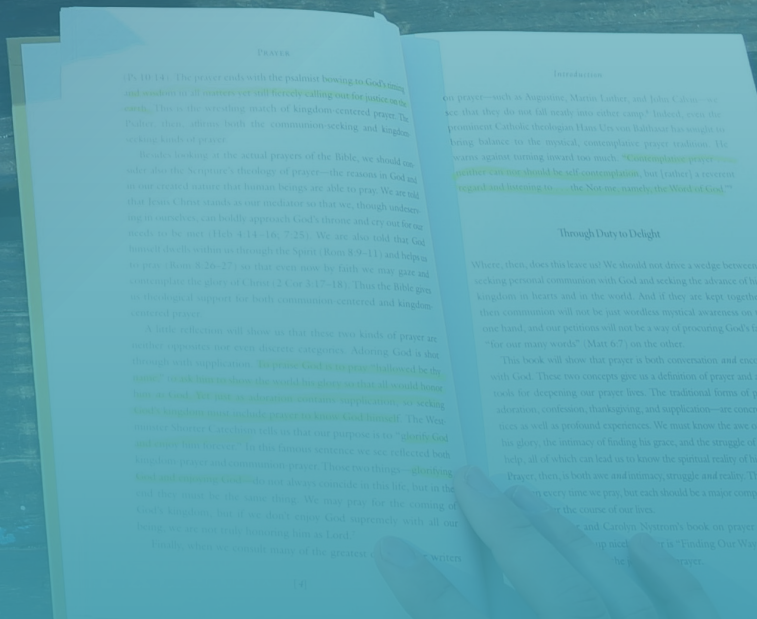


What kind of follower?

Study guide



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Introduction

I have been a follower of Jesus for over 30 years. Sometimes I have been a close follower, while other times it has been much more of a challenge. I believe that creating, developing and supporting followers of Jesus is the most crucial task for the church today, which is why I've written this study guide.

Follower, not disciple

I was tempted to use the word disciple rather than follower. Disciple is a biblical word meaning learner or student when it is used in the New Testament. Jesus Himself uses this word when He made His great commission for the disciples to go and make disciples (Matt 28:16-20). However, I had two concerns over using the word disciple.

First, learning is often viewed as a static process, confined to a classroom setting and only lasting a certain amount of time until you have finished the course. One of my main concerns is that as the church we have turned discipleship into a formal course from which we graduate. This can give the false impression that we have arrived at the final destination and have nothing left to learn. Rather than it being a dynamic lifelong commitment to a living saviour who has called us, we have made it appear as though discipleship is merely a set course of taught information.

Second, Jesus called people to follow Him. His call is very clear: it is a personal invitation to leave everything behind and start a journey with Him. It is relational, powerful and transforming.

This invitation is a radical commitment into a new relationship of love, obedience, learning and travelling – and it is a lifelong journey.

I am convinced that we must get following Jesus right. As the church we are currently facing huge changes both internally and within the communities we serve. The COVID-19 recovery, for instance, presents us with many challenges but also many opportunities, and there will be lots of areas of our lives as individuals and communities that we need to address. There are many things that we can spend time on, but if we are not fully focused on making and supporting strong followers of Jesus we will have failed in our God-given mission.

Here are five reasons why I believe faithfully following Jesus is so pertinent now:

1. As culture shifts Christians are facing new challenges and different questions. To follow faithfully we need to understand the times in which we live, and we must help people to understand how to live faithfully.
2. We have fallen short as the church to grow, develop and encourage generations to stay close to Jesus. In their book *Faith for Exiles*, David Kinnaman and Mark Mattlock show that in the US only 10 per cent of 18-25-year-old Christians could be called vibrant and robust in their faith. They comment that “the main reason young people drop out of church or fall away from faith is insufficient discipleship”. (Baker Books 2019, p28)
3. People are still hearing the call but have less background knowledge of the Christian story. They do not know how to follow, so we need to be basic, clear and helpful.
4. The COVID-19 pandemic has given us an opportunity to change how and what we have been doing and to focus on new priorities. This is a chance for the church to develop a follower-making culture.
5. Being a follower of Jesus is the most wonderful, beautiful and hope-giving life, a life of love and service. We must support people on that journey so they in turn can support others.

The aim of this study guide is to provide a framework for conversation. It is not to give right or wrong answers, although I will occasionally share from my own mistakes. . In the same way as small group resource What kind of church?, my hope is that wherever you are at on your journey with Christ, you will find helpful questions and ideas in this study guide.

What kind of follower? is to inspire honest discourse, where believers can sit together and relationally chat about walking with Jesus and each other.

How to use this study guide

There is an introductory film to go with each section of this study guide, and each section is concluded with some starter questions.

The study guide covers four areas. These encompass almost all the questions that I have been asked in the last couple of years as I've taught and mentored believers, and revolve around:

1. The invite
2. The community
3. The cost
4. Restoration

Individually or as a small group, take some time to watch the video before reading through the relevant section. The commentary encourages you to think about the issues around following Jesus, and closes with thoughts or questions that you can reflect upon individually or discuss in your group.

It's advisable that you spend a week or two on each section so that you have the time to allow the Holy Spirit to minister to you and to reflect honestly on your faith journey.

My greatest desire is for each of us to take responsibility for ourselves and each other in ways that enable us to follow the Lord who has called us by name. To follow with honesty, integrity and love, to become agents of transformation in Him, and to discover ways of staying close even when things are difficult, so that each of us can, in Paul's words, "press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus has taken hold of me". (Philippians 3:12)

Fred Drummond

Director of prayer and Scotland, Evangelical Alliance



SECTION 1

The invite

WATCH: The introductory film at eauk.org/wkof

Every journey starts with a first step, including the journey with Jesus. However, unlike most journeys, this first step has huge implications. It involves responding to Jesus' call of love, grace and power. This is a costly call and should not be responded to lightly. It involves turning away, moving on, trusting, and obeying.

READ: Matthew 4:18–22 – Jesus calls Simon and Andrew

The call of the first disciples is a wonderful picture of the power and magnetism of Jesus and the willingness of people to hear the call and respond to Him.

In this encounter with Jesus, Simon and Andrew are going about their usual daily business, trying to catch fish. The presence of Jesus changed everything. They are invited to follow Him, and they do. As I read through this encounter, I notice four things:

1. Listening

Jesus called Simon and Andrew. They could have remained preoccupied with what they were doing, there were so many distractions, but they didn't. They heard Jesus' voice and it is clear that they recognised the power and authority it carried. Hebrews 3:7 says: "Today if you hear His voice do not harden your hearts."

Listening for the voice of Jesus is vital to all who will follow. There is lots of noise around us, so it is essential that we learn to recognise the voice of Jesus through the Bible, prayer and the leading and prompting of the Holy Spirit. To follow is to learn to listen.

2. Leaving

Simon and Andrew immediately left their nets, which were their security and employment, perhaps abandoning the safety of the life they knew. This was a radical change. What I love about this interaction is that they don't ask lots of questions: "Follow you where? For how long? What happens to my nets? How will we survive?" They just go. They leave the present behind and decide to follow Jesus.

Leaving behind the past to move in another direction at the call of Jesus is called repentance.

“

“Repentance is a realisation that what God wants from you and what you want from God are not going to be achieved by doing the same old things, thinking the same old thoughts. Repentance is a decision to follow Jesus Christ and become His pilgrim in the path of peace.”
(Eugene Peterson, *Life at its Best*, Zondervan p26)

”

3. Following

The call to follow was a personal invitation, not following a new religion or joining a denomination or network, neither was it following a new pattern of teaching, which is important to remember. . It was an invitation to follow Jesus and to go where He went. The idea was to stay as close to Him as possible, tracing His steps, learning from Him and journeying into every place that He went.

For those who are responding to the call of Jesus, staying close is the key. Jesus calls the first followers into a personal relationship with Him, where love is at the centre. They are being invited into a lifelong journey of learning, where they may be confused, tested and challenged but never abandoned.

To follow is have a relationship with Jesus.

4. A new calling

“I will send you out to fish for people” (Matthew 4:19). I love that part of the original call to the first followers is missional. Simon and Andrew will be changed from those who catch fish to those who fish for people. They will not just be gathered around Jesus, but they will also be sent out in His name. This reveals both the heart and strategy of God: God the Father sends the Son and the Son sends His followers. Part of the call of Jesus is staying close to Him but also being sent out – this is the missional paradox in the life of a follower.

The direction of the lives of the followers of Jesus would be altered forever. Their calling is radically changed as they stay close to and rely on Jesus. Not only does what we do change when we follow Jesus, but our very identity alters as we journey with Him because it is now found in Him.

The dance

Imagine you are at a dance, perhaps a prom or a ceilidh. You are sitting at a quiet table with your friends, and while you're not much of a dancer you are all having fun as you watch others, especially those who get all the steps wrong. As you look around you begin to feel you don't belong there. Most of the people you look at seem to be in a different league with their expensive suits and dresses. They look like comfortable, content people of success.

Suddenly, as the music starts again for the last dance, someone walks across the room. They stop in front of you and invite you to come and dance with them. You are shocked that they stopped in front of you. Of all the people in the room, why you? You are amazed that they even knew your name. You are unsure, and retreating into your nervousness you say that you are not good at dancing – you don't even know the steps.

“Don't worry!” they say – they know the steps to every dance. All you have to do is stay close and let them



lead and you will travel round the floor together. They put their hand out and invite you onto the floor. They have confidence and assurance.

You have a decision to make. Do you stay in the safety of the corner table, sticking with your friends and carrying on as normal? Or do you get up, move forward and trust? Do you take the hand that has reached out to you?

Everything depends on whether you trust the one who has invited you onto the floor. Is this a moment to move away from what you have done before and venture forward into the unknown? To stand up and go out onto the floor requires faith; you need to believe in the one who has called you. It's a process of holding on, being led and learning. You'll be taken into the unexpected steps and stumble, but you'll be caught in strong, faithful arms. To follow is to trust.

Time to discuss

- Can you share about when you first heard the call to follow Jesus?
- What do we have to leave behind to follow?
- What are the challenges in following?
- What are some of the ways that we can stay close to Jesus?
- What are the hardest steps to learn in following?

SECTION 2

The community

WATCH: The introductory film at eauk.org/wkof

Have you noticed that Jesus had more than one follower? When He called people to follow Him, He brought them into a group. Some were closer to Him than others, and some understood more of His teaching than others, but they all travelled together. While the call to follow was an individual one, it was not an isolated one.

READ: Luke 10:1-23 – Jesus sends out the 72

Being part of the community of faith is vital to the growth of every follower of Jesus. We belong together. It is impossible to grow in faith without other followers to help us along the way, and indeed in many ways this need for community and shared life is radically counter-cultural. The community that Jesus has created is an amazing one, and I want to suggest six reasons why each of us need to be invested in church:

1. God exists in community

God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Bible reveals this mutual communion of the perfect community. Each member has a role which they fulfil (John 5:19, 8:28); each person has a responsibility. There is constant communication between the Father, Son and Spirit, and they submit to the great redemption plan (Matthew 4:1; Luke 22:42). There is a closeness and intimacy in the Trinity which points to a perfect community (Matthew 17:5).

The community of faith, flawed though it is, points to the perfect community found in the Trinity. In its life, love and mission it both reflects the Trinitarian God and enables others to see beyond themselves and the church to the great community – God.

To be a follower is to be part of the community of faith which is a demonstration of the community of God.

2. Jesus formed community

Wherever you look in the story of Jesus in the gospels you find Him building relationships and creating community. Whether He is calling the early fishermen or sending out the 72 (Luke 10:1), Jesus is creating a group of people who stay near Him, learn from Him and are sent into the world. They are the Jesus-worshipping missional community. Listening together and given a mission to go with their calling, this is a group of men and women who travelled with Jesus, offered Him hospitality and recognised Him as the messiah, even if they only partially understood the implications of that.

Jesus continues to build relationships and send His community into the world. The community is built by Jesus, shaped by the cross, instructed by the Bible, empowered and counselled by the Holy Spirit, and then sent into all the world. It is a gathered and scattered community, but it is always made up of the people who God has called to follow Him. To be a follower is to obey Jesus.

3. A broken community being healed

The community of faith is not perfect. It is full of people who mess up, get it wrong and fall. Jesus, His grace, the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit and its mission, are the only things that hold the church together. The church is the community that realises that life, hope and peace are found in Jesus alone.

This community is miraculous and it is full of people who know that they are weak and wounded yet loved beyond measure.

This Jesus community, whether gathered or scattered, is a community of welcome, grace and transforming power. It is not perfect because it is made up of people who fail, but it is loved by Jesus, powered by the Spirit and sent into the world.

To be a follower is to demonstrate vulnerable love.



4. A learning community

The church is a community that grows and learns together. We are those who are being shaped by the great overarching story of creation, fall, salvation, redemption, and transformation. We get lost in the wonder of God's great redemptive love in action, then through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit the community of faith is brought together and given fruits and gifts to be the witness to the good news of Jesus.

How do we begin to wrestle and grow as church? We spend time in scripture, reading the Bible and reflecting on it. The story of the Bible is our story; it's not merely a collection of fables or little thoughts for consolation. Rather, "it is an interpretation of the whole of history from creation to its end, and of the human story within that creation" (Lesslie Newbigin, *A Walk Through the Bible*, Triangle p5). As we read, grow and reflect together on this story, we slowly develop in faith and understanding. This is not just about head knowledge; it's about putting into practice how we follow Jesus more closely in our lives.

To follow is to mature and grow in faith.

5. A Community with a mission

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:18). Jesus was always sending His followers out into the world. They were given a clear task: Abram was sent into strange lands, Moses was sent to confront Pharaoh, Isaiah and other prophets were sent to warn the nation. In the New Testament Jesus is sent into the world, His followers are sent into the surrounding villages, and His church is sent into all the world. Jesus, with absolute authority and power, sends disciples (learners) out to make more learners – followers who make followers.

This mission of transformation involves every follower, because every member of the community has a vital role to play, and mission starts where we are: in our families, streets, workplaces, and right out to the ends of the world. The church is a sent and sending body.



6. A mysterious community

This amazing, exciting and growing global family of faith does not have all the answers. We live in a place of faith, understanding and mystery. We often strive for power and prestige, have large resources, and aim for popularity; yet we follow one who had no place to lay His head, emptied Himself, and who was despised and rejected.

We journey with Jesus, secure in His victory, yet we travel in a sinful, broken world. Our community is a paradox: it includes people of every background and from every part of the world, and yet we are one. It is simultaneously weak and strong. It sometimes lacks discernment and yet carries incredible wisdom.

Summary

We need each other. We are made and called to worship Jesus together. We are a worshipping community marked by our love for God and for one another. We are a community of love held together by Jesus, and by living for Him, we present an alternative community – one that lives for Christ and for others. These threads of worship and love run all the way through the various areas we have looked at.

Time to discuss

- Why is community so important to Jesus?
- Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your view of church? If so, in what ways?
- Why do followers need one another?
- The church is both gathered and scattered. What are the differences and similarities between the two?
- How does being part of the community of faith help you grow closer to Jesus?
- How are we helping others grow closer to Jesus?
- How does being part of the global church help you follow Jesus?

SECTION 3

The cost

WATCH: The introductory film at eauk.org/wkof

People have the most wonderful time knowing Jesus and following Him. They know peace, forgiveness, hope and life. However, Jesus was very clear about the cost involved in following Him, and that if we were to answer His call to follow we had to be fully committed. There could be no turning back; Jesus expected full allegiance. He lived in beautiful grace, but He set the bar high for those who would follow Him. To be a follower is to be fully committed to Jesus.

READ: Luke 14:25-33 – The cost of following Jesus

Jesus made it clear that He required full commitment from His followers and to follow Him would mean people would reject them. There might be opposition and even persecution. If we go the way of Jesus, then we go the way of the cross. Here are three actions we are to take if we're to faithfully follow Jesus, despite the cost:

1. Listen to Jesus

In Luke 14:25-33, Jesus had just been for a meal at someone's house and told the parable of The Great Banquet. He outlined the free invitation made by God to come to Him, making the point that salvation is free and the call is made to all who will come. As He travelled on, large crowds of people followed Him, and it was at this point that He spoke to them about the cost of being His disciple.

Jesus makes clear that He must be first: our calling in Him is our priority, we should first count the cost, and we should bring change by our presence.

Jesus also warned the crowd that whoever did hear the call and decide to follow should first count the cost. It is important for everyone to weigh up the cost.

Jesus uses the examples of a builder building a tower and a king going to war, and in each illustration He highlights that to not count the cost beforehand leads to embarrassment, defeat and possible disaster.

To be a follower of Jesus is to listen to His voice.

“

“A traveller who is not prepared to stir out of his armchair in his study, is not a traveller. A disciple who is not prepared to follow the master or do what he says, is no disciple.”
(David Gooding, *According to Luke*, IVP p269)

”

2. Walking the walk

Christians were persecuted in the times of the early church and they are still being tortured, imprisoned and killed today. We must never forget that parts of the global church are continually in a state of danger. We can learn so much from our brothers' and sisters' faith and courage, as well as their commitment to mission and evangelism in such challenging situations.

We cannot fully understand the level of cost that some people face daily as they follow Jesus. I am always humbled by the faith and grace and presence of Jesus I have experienced when I have met someone who has paid a huge price for our saviour. They know more of the cost that Jesus bore for us.

Sometimes I have heard recounted stories of the beauty of Jesus drawing wonderfully close to those in the deepest anguish. In suffering, the presence of the Lord grants unbelievable courage. To be a follower of Jesus involves huge courage.

3. Hanging on

Those of us who follow Jesus and take the Bible seriously find that our worldview and beliefs often put us at odds with those around us, particularly in the western world. It can be uncomfortable to be the only Christian in the staff room, the only Christian doctor on the ward, the only Christian call centre worker, or the only tradesman who follows Jesus. This may lead us to feeling uncomfortable and isolated.

The challenge to stay faithful and yet build relationships with others is a demanding and gruelling place to live, but it is the experience of many of us as we follow Jesus. When we find our views are constantly at odds with the views and values of others, we might become silent and conform or try to change the culture around us.

Could I suggest that as followers of Jesus we are not called to change the culture around us but rather to live a different one?

We present an alternative way of living, at the heart of which is love.

This involves going the extra mile, caring for the individual, living openly and praying; and it means never hiding who we are but instead demonstrating whose we are in every word and action.

To be a follower of Jesus is to live out the kingdom culture wherever we are sent.

Summary

The one who called us is faithful. For most of us it is a little bit of a shock to find that our faith sometimes leads us into uncomfortable places and situations. We must never forget that the Lord we follow leads us in unmerited goodness and care, and He is worth the price we pay to follow Him.

We're to remember that while Jesus warned us that there would be a cost involved in following, He also promised that He would never leave us alone in our trials. Additionally, as we serve Him, we are pointing to the culture of the kingdom of God – a culture of love, hope and salvation.

Time to discuss

- Read Luke 14:25-33 again. What do you think about the challenges that Jesus gives?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you felt uncomfortable as a Christian?
- In what ways do you see the Christian faith being increasingly marginalised?
- Can you describe a time when you have been aware of the presence of Jesus in a challenging situation?
- How can we live more radically as God's people in every area of our life?
- Will you reflect and offer a silent prayer for those who are being persecuted because of their faith?





SECTION 4

Restoration

WATCH: The introductory film at eauk.org/wkof

The journey with Jesus is one that is often a picture of moving forward only to then fall back. It should be about making small steps in the right direction, but sometimes our journey begins to grind to a halt. Maybe we fall flat on our face and don't know how to get back up again. The Holy Spirit is at work in each of us and is changing us to become more Christ-like, but we are not fully there yet, and the possibility of sin and failure lies before us every day.

READ: John 21:15-17 – Jesus reinstates Peter

Over the years the question I get asked over and over is, “Can God still love me when I have done something awful?” or “I gave up on following Jesus, is there a way back for me?” We should be sorry every time we let Jesus down, but what happens when we fall into a major area of sin? What happens when we clearly know that we are living in a way that is not acceptable to Jesus and is in fact a barrier between us and Him?

To be a follower of Jesus is to understand our weakness and the grace of the Lord. Here are four ways that we're reminded of the wonder of grace and the amazing forgiveness that we find in Jesus Christ:

1. Biblical accounts

Peter was a great guy who messed up, said the wrong things and made mistakes. Most of us will know of his biggest failure, something he thought he would never do: he denied Jesus – not just once, but three times. But there was a way back, and he kept travelling with Jesus, as we read in John 21:15-17.

2. Grace in action

I think the interaction between Jesus and Peter in John 21:15-17 is the greatest story in history of grace and restoration. Jesus gently restores, re-energises and recommissions Peter.

I love that Jesus does not ask, “Why did you deny me?”; instead He asks the key question which applies to every follower who has ever heard the call of Jesus: “Do you love me?”.

Tom Wright comments,

“If you are going to do any single solitary thing as a follower and servant of Jesus, this is what it's built on. Somewhere deep down inside, there is a love for Jesus, and though, (goodness knows) you have let Him down enough times, He wants to find that love, to give you a chance to express it, to heal the hurts and failures of the past, and give you new work to do.” (Tom Wright, *John for Everyone*, SPCK 2002 p163)

Jesus purposefully and patiently walks Peter through restoration. Three denials, three opportunities for redemption. He doesn't give up on Peter after his failure but instead, exercising goodness that Peter could never earn, he also charges him with a task. Love is outworked by service, and restoration involves commission.

There is no ‘gently take your time’ type language here; instead there is the charge to immediately get back involved in the kingdom work of Jesus.

3. Painstaking work of the saviour

The bottom line here is that there is a way back to Jesus.

An artist when restoring a flaking and cracked painting is patient and brings out more potential from the artwork than could have ever been imagined by the average punter looking at it before. The artist painstakingly cleans, inch-by-inch, and then revitalises the drained colours with fresh paint.

“

Jesus often gently restores areas of our life, and He sees worth and giftedness that no one else does.

”

You may feel that you have done things that have put you out of the reach of the restorer. Maybe you've got a dirty and cracked spirit, and there are areas of your life that are really messed up. You started as a follower with such passion and faith but now you don't know whether there is a way back for you. You wonder if you are now out of the scope of Jesus' love so you give up, dreaming of what might have been but weighed down with sorrow.

Jesus is both the artist and the restorer. The scope of His care and patience is beyond what you can imagine. Jesus died for you and has not given up on you.

To be a follower of Jesus is to understand the patience of Jesus.



4. A way back

When we feel like we have sinned, messed up and totally ruined our relationship with Jesus, what can we do?

I always go back to 1 John 1:8-9: “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

I believe there are certain steps that bring us back to the place where we are being cleansed and walk again with Jesus:

1. Repentance

Firstly, we have to want to come back, to turn from the path we are currently on to a different path. Our sorrow must lead to action. We need to want to head back towards Jesus – like the son in the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). The son goes into lots of places and does lots of stupid things. Eventually, in desperation, he comes back in humility to the father and discovers the father has longed for his safe return.

2. Confession

We need to confess before Jesus what we have done and acknowledge how we have hurt both Him and others. I believe we need to go further and speak to another person – a leader or a person we trust – who can keep us accountable – someone who will ask us difficult questions and will keep walking with us.

3. Trust

We need to trust in the forgiveness and grace of God, believing that the work of the Spirit is cleansing us and picking us up. We must have faith both in the finished work of Jesus as saviour and in His power to break our chains and to restore us.

4. Act

We must move on again, fulfilling our commission, pointing others to Jesus and living the life of a follower that He has called us to. We are to fully enter into the mission of God in the world.

To be a follower of Jesus is to turn around and seek the forgiveness He offers.



Summary

We live by grace. We have never merited the love of Jesus and we never will. It is all about Him and the love He pours into us. He is saddened when we fall or when we distance ourselves from Him by our choices, but He never stops loving us. However, He does expect us, when prompted by the Holy Spirit, to turn our lives around and to answer the question that He asked Peter, “Do you love me?”.

We then confess and, in believing in the power of Jesus’ forgiveness, we can move forward recommissioned into His purposes for the world. There is never a time when you can’t return. Our sin should always have us running back to Jesus and seeking His forgiveness.

Time to reflect

Read the conversation between Peter and Jesus in John 21:15-17 again.

- How do you think Peter felt when he saw Jesus?
- Why do you think it was important for Jesus to take Peter aside?
- Why was it important for Peter to be asked the same question three times?
- Why do we find it hard to believe that Jesus still loves us when we fall?
- Can you think of reasons why we find repentance and coming back to Jesus so difficult?
- Why is it important that Jesus recommissions us back into the mission?

What now?

The aim of these reflections is to give a framework for conversation and discussion, not to give right or wrong answers. I believe that following Jesus is a lifelong journey. This journey is beautiful, as being close to Jesus is what we were intended for.

**Knowing Him is to discover life,
and to know the presence, peace
and hope that we find in Him.**

Knowing that we are never alone or abandoned enables us to face everything we experience. However, the journey is also a challenging, full of struggles and temptations. As we mature in the faith, we begin to recognise the voice of Jesus more clearly and understand these challenges, hopefully managing to steer clear of them.

I have not attempted to cover every aspect of following Jesus, rather I have attempted to discuss issues that have repeatedly been raised with me in over 25 years of Christian leadership both locally and nationally.

I believe that the challenge in following Jesus in the times we are living in are both complex and difficult.

A primary task for us, as people of faith, is to support one another in staying close to Jesus. As we in the western church experience the shift from the centre to the margins and now live in a culture that neither understands nor embraces our story, the issues become more evident.

We must intentionally cultivate honest shared vulnerability and care that leads to deeper adoration and obedience to Jesus the Lord. We need to talk, pray and mentor one another in ways that lead to full commitment to Jesus. Our task as the community of faith is to build a strong, confident and equipped community of faith, where we understand who we are in Jesus, realise we are called to community, understand the cost, and turn around when we are going in the wrong direction – fully loving and being loved by the one who called us.

“The confidence proper to a Christian is not the confidence of one who claims possession of demonstrable and indubitable knowledge. It is the confidence of one who heard and answered the call that comes from God through whom and for whom all things were made: follow me.” (Lesslie Newbigin, *Proper Confidence*, Eerdmans 1995 p105)



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