

LEARNING THE WAY OF JESUS



ARE YOU TIRED? WORN OUT? BURNED OUT
ON RELIGION? COME TO ME. GET AWAY WITH
ME AND YOU'LL RECOVER YOUR LIFE.
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO TAKE A REAL REST.
WALK WITH ME AND WORK WITH ME – WATCH
HOW I DO IT.

LEARN THE UNFORCED RHYTHMS OF GRACE.

Matthew 11v28-30
(MSG)

This booklet provides easy to understand language about what it means for us to be followers of Jesus. What if the process by which we become his disciples does not need to be some hard to grasp concept, seemingly always out of reach? Instead, what if being his followers could be joyfully simple, deeply meaningful and shockingly practical?

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Being a follower of Jesus is not just a Sunday event or something reserved for Bible scholars and pastors. Instead, it is a way of life that deeply transforms us from the inside out. Through the teachings of Jesus, a rich web of relationships we call community, and the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we recover our humanity.

Jesus, a first century rabbi, called his disciples to pick up his way of life and learn from him as a student does from their teacher. To do this, we organize our lives around these three goals:

- Being with Jesus
- Becoming like Jesus
- Doing what Jesus did

**ABIDE IN ME, AND I IN YOU.
AS THE BRANCH CANNOT BEAR FRUIT BY
ITSELF, UNLESS IT ABIDES IN THE VINE,
NEITHER CAN YOU, UNLESS YOU ABIDE IN ME.**

**John 15v4
(ESV)**

The first goal of being a follower of Jesus is being with Jesus.

To do this, we prioritize living in a constant state of awareness and connection to the Holy Spirit. The seventeenth century lay monk Brother Lawrence poetically called this "the practice of the presence of God." Jesus called it "abiding". Simply put, it's the idea of gradually inviting Jesus into every corner and moment of our lives.

BEING WITH JESUS

Some of the ways by which we can prioritize being with Jesus include, but are not limited to:

- Prayer
- Silence
- Solitude
- Sabbath and rest
- Fasting
- Reading the scriptures

We encourage you to make these practices a central part of your routine and schedule, as habits have the power to form and deform us.

Community also plays a major role in our transformation, and we welcome our Celebration Communities to practice these, together.

HE ALSO TOLD THEM THIS PARABLE:

"CAN THE BLIND LEAD THE BLIND? WILL THEY NOT BOTH FALL INTO A PIT? THE STUDENT IS NOT ABOVE THE TEACHER, BUT EVERYONE WHO IS FULLY TRAINED WILL BE LIKE THEIR TEACHER."

**Luke 6v39-40
(NIV)**

The second goal of being a follower of Jesus is becoming like Jesus.

As we spend time with him in deep, meaningful relationship, we allow his character to shape and transform our own character. Sometimes, this happens naturally, and other times it needs a bit more intentionality.

BECOMING LIKE JESUS

Some of the ways by which we can let the character of Jesus transform our character include, but are not limited to:

- Living in community with others
- Choosing to love others when it's difficult
- Committing to simple living
- Forgiving others as we have been forgiven
- Discovering our identity and purpose
- Becoming committed to the needs of others
- Practicing humility

We encourage you to make these rhythms and mindsets a central part of your routine and schedule, as habits have the power to form and deform us.

We welcome our Celebration Communities to practice integrating these, together.

TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN ME WILL DO THE WORKS THAT I
DO...

John 14v12a
(ESV)

The third goal of being a follower of Jesus is doing what Jesus did.

As the Church, we are called to action. By being with Jesus so we can become more like him, our goal is to start behaving like and doing the things Jesus did during his ministry.

DOING WHAT JESUS DID

Some of the ways by which we can do the things Jesus did are:

- Eating and drinking with people far from God
- Preaching the Gospel
- Teaching others the way of Jesus
- Prophesying
- Doing justice
- Peacemaking
- Standing up against religious & political corruption

We encourage you to consider these actions once you've woven enough time into your routines and schedule to be with and become like Jesus.

We welcome our Celebration Communities to practice integrating these, together.

SO... WHAT'S NEXT?

Being a follower of Jesus is a long and rewarding journey rather than a switch we can simply flip on. For every three steps forward, we often take two steps back. Resist the temptation to be discouraged. Even Jesus' closest friends and companions took years to become the people Jesus had called them to be.

So... what's next? We encourage you to try any of these three things:

(1) Join a Celebration Community.

Community is where a lot of our transformation takes place. Jesus likened his community to a family. And in this family, deep, meaningful transformation can take place.

(2) Join us online or in-person for our Sunday celebrations.

Each Sunday, one of our pastors will teach from the scriptures, and we encourage you to join us together as a family, learning how to live out our faith in practical and meaningful ways.

(3) Create a rule of life and stick with it.

See our document on "a rule of life". A rule of life is simply a schedule and set of practices by which we carve out time to live in loving relationship with Jesus and one another. This is a helpful tool for us to be more intentional with our time, energy and resources.

