

Two Simple Words: A 5-Day Journey of Following Jesus

Based on Matthew 4:12–25

“And He said to them, ‘*Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.*’ Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.”
— Matthew 4:19–20 (ESV)

Day 1 | The Light That Breaks the Darkness

Read: Matthew 4:12–17 | Isaiah 9:1–2 | John 8:12

When Jesus moved into Galilee after John’s arrest, Matthew tells us He fulfilled Isaiah’s prophecy: “*The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light.*” Galilee was far from Jerusalem—spiritually dark, despised, and filled with Gentiles. Yet this is where Jesus began His ministry.

That’s good news for us. Jesus comes not to the self-sufficient but to the desperate. His light shines in the darkest places—our sin, our shame, our weariness. The hope of the gospel isn’t that we find our way to God, but that God has come to us in Christ.

Jesus still enters the shadows of our lives with His redeeming light. The question is: will we open our hearts to receive it? When Jesus begins His public ministry, His first message is clear: “*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*” Turning from sin and turning to Christ is the doorway into the kingdom.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you see “darkness” in your life or in our world right now?
2. What does it look like for you to walk in the light of Christ today?

Practical Application

Spend time thanking God for the specific ways His light has broken through your darkness. Write them down and share one story with someone this week.

Prayer

Father, thank You for sending Jesus to bring light to my darkness. Help me turn from sin and walk in the light of Your truth. Let Your light shine through me to those still in darkness. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 2 | The Call to Follow

Read: Matthew 4:18–20 | Luke 5:1–11 | John 15:16

As Jesus walks along the Sea of Galilee, He calls two fishermen: “*Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.*” Ordinary men doing ordinary work—until Jesus steps into their story.

He doesn’t wait for them to clean up their lives or understand everything about discipleship. He simply calls them to trust Him—and He does the transforming. The same call comes to us today. Christianity isn’t a list of rules; it’s a relationship. It’s not *follow principles* but *Follow Me*.

When Jesus calls you, He calls you away from comfort, security, and self-direction—but He also calls you *into* something greater: His presence, His purpose, and His mission.

Reflection Questions

1. What “nets” might Jesus be calling you to lay down right now?
2. How does His personal call—“Follow Me”—encourage or challenge you?

Practical Application

Name one area of your life that needs surrender. Offer it to the Lord in prayer, and tell Him you are willing to follow wherever He leads.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling me to follow You. Give me courage to leave behind whatever holds me back and faith to trust that You will make me into who You desire me to be. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 3 | The Cost and Joy of Following Jesus

Read: Matthew 4:21–22 | Luke 9:23–25 | Philippians 3:7–8

James and John left not only their nets but also their father. That detail reminds us that following Jesus costs something. It means putting Him before comfort, possessions, plans—even family expectations.

True discipleship isn't convenient; it's costly. But it's also joyful. Jesus is no cruel taskmaster—He's the treasure hidden in a field, worth selling everything to possess. The world promises happiness through self-preservation, but Jesus offers joy through self-denial.

When we count the cost of discipleship, we should also count the cost of *non-discipleship*. The temporary comfort of keeping control is nothing compared to the eternal joy of knowing Him.

Reflection Questions

1. What has following Jesus cost you so far? What joy has it brought?
2. How does seeing Jesus as your greatest treasure help you embrace the cost?

Practical Application

Take inventory of your priorities. Where does Jesus rank in your time, attention, and affection? Make one practical change this week to put Him first.

Prayer

Lord, You are worth more than anything I could lose. Help me follow You with joy and faith, trusting that You are better than all this world offers.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 4 | Following in Faith, Not Understanding

Read: Proverbs 3:5–6 | Matthew 4:20 | Hebrews 11:8–10

Peter, Andrew, James, and John didn't know where following Jesus would lead. They simply trusted Him enough to take the first step. That's faith—walking without full understanding but with full confidence in the One who leads.

Faith begins when we stop demanding details and start walking in obedience. The disciples had no idea they'd one day preach to thousands or die for their faith. They only knew the next step: *follow Him*.

You may not know what God is doing right now. The path might be uncertain, but His presence is not. The more you obey in small steps, the more you'll see His faithfulness unfold.

Reflection Questions

1. Where is God calling you to trust Him without full understanding?
2. How can you take the next small step of obedience today?

Practical Application

Write down one area of uncertainty in your life. Pray over it, then take one step of obedience you know God is calling you to take.

Prayer

Father, help me trust You when I can't see the way ahead. Strengthen my faith to follow You one step at a time, believing Your plans are good and Your ways are perfect.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 5 | Following Jesus Together

Read: Matthew 4:23–25 | Acts 2:42–47 | Hebrews 10:24–25

Jesus didn't call His disciples to walk alone. He gathered them into community and led them together. Matthew 4:23 shows His ministry rhythm: *teaching, preaching, and healing*. That's the pattern for discipleship today—truth, gospel, and care lived out in community.

We follow Jesus best when we follow Him together. In worship, our hearts are re-oriented toward Christ. In equipping, our minds are formed by His Word. In relationships, our lives are shaped by love and mission.

You were never meant to be a lone disciple. Discipleship happens shoulder-to-shoulder—in Gathered worship, in Equip studies, and in Circles of community. The call to “Follow Me” is both personal and shared.

Reflection Questions

1. Who are you walking with as you follow Jesus?
2. How can you help someone else take their next step of faith this week?

Practical Application

Reach out to someone from church and encourage them. Pray with them or invite them to your Home Group or Circle. Discipleship deepens through shared life.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You that You've called me into Your family. Help me walk with others in love, truth, and mission as we follow You together. Make our church a place where disciples make disciples.

In Jesus' name, Amen.