

Week commencing 26th October 2020



House Group Bible Study - 'The call to follow Jesus'

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Let's have a think and discussion about the different things we follow. Do any of you follow a particular health or fitness guru? How about a sports team, hobby or interest, fashion designer, celebrity chef or musician / band??

How does following these people / things impact your life and is there a cost? Does the way you follow these people / things reflect in any way the way you follow Jesus?

One of my hobbies is trying to learn German following an online app called Duolingo. I was recently inspired by Owain who uses Duolingo to learn Spanish, and has an unbroken streak of 744 days, which means that he has done at least a 5 minute lesson every day for 744 days!



I am currently on a 55 day streak (Woo Hoo) and am starting to see the benefit of a small daily commitment! Sometimes, I think following Jesus is a bit like learning a new language. We are born into his family and Kingdom with a whole new perspective on life, and a new set of priorities and values. The discipline of a daily Bible reading is powerful and I am challenged by the following quote.

"Watch your thoughts, they become your words; watch your words, they become your actions; watch your actions, they become your habits; watch your habits, they become your character; watch your character, it becomes your destiny."

So, Jesus invites us to follow him. What a wonderful honour for us that HE wants us to be on HIS team! Here are some verses that talk about following Jesus.

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Mark 8:34

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children.
Ephesians 5:1



The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Deuteronomy 31:8

Walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess. Deuteronomy 5:33

When Jesus says “Take up your cross daily and follow me,” **what does that mean to you?** He certainly doesn’t want us to be burdened by our sin, or religious baggage, so what does he mean?

One answer I think, is that he wants us to engage with the difficult things in our lives, and see them as tools in God’s hands that he can use to keep us close to him, and make us more like him.

Joni Eareckson -Tada sings in one of her songs, “In this life I have a cross that I must bear, a tiny part of Jesus’ death that I can share, and one day I’ll lay it down and he has promised me a crown to which my suffering can never be compared”.



Are you aware of difficult things in your life that have brought you closer to Jesus?

In what way does following Jesus make your life different from someone who doesn’t follow him?

Is the call on your life to follow Jesus leading you in a certain direction?

**Day by day, Dear Lord of thee, three things I pray:
To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,
follow thee more nearly, day by day.**