

FOLLOW JESUS

LEADER GUIDE

WELCOME TO FOLLOW JESUS!

Thanks for leading your group or study through this seven week series on becoming an outward focused follower of Jesus. This leader guide is designed to help you navigate weekly meetings and facilitate discussion with your group.

Follow Jesus can be purchased on Amazon or at one of our Grace Church campus locations. The companion sermon series from pastor and author Tim Howey can be found at visitgracechurch.com/followjesus. The messages provide additional perspective on each chapter.

As the leader, your role is to create an environment where people can pursue authentic community and spiritual growth. That includes:

- Preparing a weekly agenda for the group meetings (sample below)
- Facilitating discussion around the material (not re-teaching the material). The goal is for group members to speak 80% of the time and the leader to speak 20%
- Monitoring the health of the group
- Promoting participation among group members

GOALS

Each week, we ask group members to do three things:

1. Attend a weekend service or watch the message online
2. Read the chapter prior to your group or study gathering
3. Join in discussion with your group

SAMPLE GROUP AGENDA

- **Connect (10-15 minutes)**
 - Catch up, chat over food or snacks, check in to see how everyone is doing, do an icebreaker, etc.
- **Learn (40-45 minutes)**
 - Use exercises from the chapter and the discussion questions provided in this guide to facilitate conversation around what we learned this week.
- **Apply (10-15 minutes)**
 - How will we apply what we are learning to our lives this week?
- **Pray (5-10 minutes)**
 - Pray together as a group or divide up and pray. Prayer can happen at any time during your meeting...or even multiple times. Typically, we start and finish our time in prayer.

FACILITATING TIPS:

If you are leading a study:

1. Open and close as a large group but break out into small groups for the individual components listed above.
2. Assign table leaders for each small group to facilitate discussion.
3. After welcoming everyone, here are a few suggestions to begin your sessions before breaking out into groups:
 - a. Brief overview – What Follow Jesus is all about, recap the last chapter, preview the chapter you will be discussing today.
 - b. Share how God is impacting you personally through this study.
 - c. Share something that stood out to you from the message this week.
 - d. Ask a participant in advance to take just a few minutes to share what God is doing in their life through this series.
4. Encourage those who are not already in a Grace Group to consider joining one – or forming one with their table once this study is over.

If you are leading a group:

1. See tips above for opening your time together.
2. Avoid reading the chapter during the group gathering.
 - a. Assign the reading ahead of time and then discuss the things that stood out (doesn't have to be page by page)
 - b. Use the questions and exercises within each chapter as discussion prompts.
3. Spend time with the activities and questions.
 - a. If comfortable, have everyone share their drawings and discuss their answers to questions.
 - b. You probably won't have time for each person to share every thing, so ask them to share what stood out to them most. Or choose specific things from the chapter to focus on for that week.
4. Don't bypass the verses.
 - a. If a discussion question includes a verse, read it together and talk about how it applies.
5. Below are examples of ways to engage your group in discussion from the exercises and questions from each chapter.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: The goal is not to get through all the questions each week. The goal is to engage your group in honest and transparent discussion that promotes healthy relationships and spiritual growth.

These questions are simply a tool to help you with that. Pick and choose the ones you think will be best for your group, or create your own discussion points around the material.

LETTER ONE: FOLLOWING

1. Did anything stand out to you from Tim's message this week that isn't covered in the chapter?
2. How did you respond to the questions in page 13 from John 10:27?
 - My sheep hear my voice
 - And I know them
 - And they follow me
3. Box at the top of page 14 - *How did Jesus follow leaders in his life?* Have different people from your group look up the verses and discuss.
4. From the "Quick Check Up" list on page 16-17 – if comfortable, share which areas are the most challenging for you and why.
5. What are your thoughts on Luke 9:23 and the question Tim presents at the top of page 21?

6. Read Matthew 11:28-30 together and answer the question from page 24.
7. How does the idea of the “Blank Contract” on page 27 make you feel?
8. How will you apply what you are learning this week?

LETTER TWO: SPIRIT

1. Did anything stand out to you from Tim’s message this week that isn’t covered in the chapter?
2. How did you respond to the questions at the bottom of page 30?
3. Walk through the questions on page 34 together.
4. After reading this chapter about the Holy Spirit:
 - What scriptures stood out to you, or was new information, or confused you?
 - Do you have clarity about who the Holy Spirit is and how he works? What questions still remain?
 - How do you personally sense the Holy Spirit working in your life these days?
5. Did anyone do the listening experiment on page 56? How did it go? (Encourage everyone to try this coming week)
6. How will you apply what you are learning this week?

LETTER THREE: BELIEVING

1. Did anything stand out to you from Tim's message this week that isn't covered in the chapter?
2. Who's willing to share their responses from the "Spirit-Led Self-Assessment" on page 65?
3. Read John 6:22-29 together. What jumped out to you?
4. What are some things that stood out to you from the "I should vs I believe" section of this letter? Where do fall in the continuum on page 74?
5. Who's willing to share their experience from the "Praying Bible Verses Assignment" on pages 80-81? (Encourage those who did not do it to give it a try this week)
6. How will you apply what you are learning this week?

LETTER FOUR: DISCIPLES

1. Did anything stand out to you from Tim's message this week that isn't covered in the chapter?
2. How did you respond to the question box on the bottom of page 86? How about page 87?
3. Take time to discuss the question presented on page 96. For those who may have never shared or haven't for a long time, what do you think is holding you back?
 - Whether you prayed the prayer on page 97 or not, let's pause and pray this over our group right now.
4. Did anyone pray about who to invite to church?
 - How about the elevator speech – were you able to create one...did you get a chance to use it?
 - Who would be willing to share their elevator speech with the group right now?

5. For a great tool to help you with sharing your story, go to visitgracechurch.com/onemessage and click on Challenge #2: Write and share your story.
6. Which method would you feel most comfortable using to share the gospel? Elevator speech, your story, or Roman's road? Why?
7. Do you have someone in your life you are showing how to walk with Jesus like you walk with Jesus?
 - If so, how are you doing that?
 - If not, are you praying for someone?
8. If you are interested in one-on-one discipleship – either leading someone through Love Jesus / Follow Jesus or being led – go to (QR code or website here).
9. How will you apply what you are learning this week?

LETTER FIVE: NATIONS

1. Did anything stand out to you from Tim's message this week that isn't covered in the chapter?
2. Discuss the question on page 119.
3. Read the passages in the box on page 120 together and discuss.
4. Read the verses and identify the promises at the bottom of page 121.
5. Tim raises a question on page 129, "Would you move to the foreign mission field if God called you? Yes or no? Why or why not?" discuss this with your group.
6. How did you answer the question on page 138?

7. Finish your time praying for:
 - God to raise up missionaries to take the gospel to the unreached people groups in this world.
 - Grace's church planting initiative
 - Our personal role in reaching the nations
8. How will you apply what you are learning this week?

LETTER SIX: ENEMIES

1. Did anything stand out to you from Tim's message this week that isn't covered in the chapter?
2. Together, read the passages at the top of page 145 and then share your response to the question.
3. Read 2 Timothy 2:23-26 as a group and discuss the questions on page 146.
4. Is anyone willing to share your experience with the exercise for confessing sin on page 155? Is there any sin that needs to be confessed in the safety of our group right now?
5. On page 157, Tim shares enemy #2, the Devil and demonic realm and how he attacks us with lies. Discuss with your group times that you have found yourself listening to the lies of the enemy. What were some of those lies? (There is a list of common lies on pg 159-160 if your group could use some help)
6. Which of the 3 enemies – the flesh, the devil, the world - do you struggle the most with in your life? Discuss as a group.
7. How will you apply what you are learning this week?

LETTER SEVEN: RETURN

1. Did anything stand out to you from Tim's message this week that isn't covered in the chapter?
2. Discuss your answers to the questions on pages 171 and 173.
3. How did you respond to the questions about Psalm 139 and Ephesians 5 on page 179? Read the passages together as a group.
4. Which one of the three challenges in waiting for the Lord's return do you wrestle with most – if any? Doubting, Date setting, becoming Distracted.
5. Tim speaks of differing and strongly held positions surrounding the Lord's return. Do you have any differing positions in your faith background or personal study from what is described in this letter?
 - Encourage the group to share and that it's okay to have a different view or to disagree. The primary point of agreement is that Jesus is going to return. The sequence of events surrounding his return is open for interpretation.
 - Remember: agreement ≠ love
6. How did you answer the question at the top of page 189?
7. How will you apply what you are learning this week?
7. What has been your greatest take-away from this study?