



## Life Is Complicated. We Can Help.

### Fan or Follower

#nplife is complicated

Week 23

February 7, 2021

**Bottom Line:** Your life as a follower of Jesus Christ should make nonbelievers question their disbelief.

**Icebreaker:** Who do people say you most resemble? Do you like the comparison or not? Why?

**Key Verse:** *They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly.* 2 Timothy 3:5 NLT

Jesus is NOT looking for fans. He's looking for followers. Followers who understand that there is a cost, and they are all in. It's not that fans don't want a relationship with Jesus, it's just that they want the relationship with Him on their terms. There will be a day when we stand before God, and on that day many who thought themselves followers will be identified as nothing more than fans. True followers will have some stories of obedient following that others will consider crazy. Followers understand that this is a pursuit that requires everything they have. Fans emphasize thinking and believing. Followers emphasize actions and doing—what MUST happen if you follow.

Jesus gave us the model: When we follow we do what He did. **SERVE OTHERS.** Followers believe we are here to serve others. This requires a change in attitude, a mental shift. If you are going to be a servant, you have to settle your identity in Christ. Only secure people can serve. **MAKE DISCIPLES.** The path of following Jesus is to have three stages: When we experience Jesus, we follow Jesus and make disciples. If we are faithfully following, making disciples is the natural result. Faithful followers take responsibility for the state of their relationships. **MODEL GODLINESS.** To model godliness means to reveal who God is; to by my life give the picture of who He is. God is LOVE, and that characteristic must be primary. **FORGIVENESS** was lived out even on the cross when Christ was in His worst moment. That must characterize me as well. God is **GENEROUS** and His followers will live that out. The early church was marked by generosity as they reflected the heart of the Father. That is the way we are to live.

You can see that we, as followers of Jesus Christ, have an opportunity to impact the world with the stories of our obedient lives. What if we would follow so intensely and passionately that our countercultural lives forced people to rethink what they thought about Jesus? Two kinds of people have shaped your life to this point: the people who hurt you and the people who loved you. Jesus-followers make sure they fall in the second category and model the life and character of Jesus as they write their life stories.

## THINK IT OVER >>>

What was the most significant part of Sunday's message to you?

Fans will be careful not to get carried away. Followers understand that following Jesus is a pursuit that may cost them everything, but it is the best investment they could ever make. Reflect and discuss. Have your shaping experiences been the "don't get carried away" or the "cost you everything" kind? Who was one of the earliest true followers you knew in your life who impacted you?

God is always more interested in why we do something than in what we do. Attitudes count more than achievements. Where do you see Jesus illustrating that in His ministry?

We can measure our servant heart by how we respond when others treat us like servants. How do you react when you're taken for granted, bossed around, or treated as an inferior?

## LOOK IT OVER <<<

If you're going to be a servant, you must settle your identity in Christ. Only secure people can serve. The more insecure you are, the more you'll want people to serve you and need their approval. Take a security check. What does it tell you about your identity?

Why do you think the average Christian is not making disciples? How would you define "making disciples"?

Which area do you believe is your strongest in modeling Christ? Love, Forgiveness, Generosity. Which is your weakest? What can you do about it?

Has anyone ever looked at your passion for serving Christ and expressed disbelief? Does anyone think you have "gone too far"? Share your story.

God impacts the world through stories of passionate Jesus-followers. Whose story impacted you? Who hurt you? Who loved you? Where would others place you?

# NEXT STEPS

1. Honestly evaluate if your life has any “Only God” impact that would cause nonbelievers to question their nonbelief.
2. If God is speaking to your heart to move from a fan to a follower, take that step and let somebody know. We can help each other.
3. Loving, forgiving, giving. This week take a step to up your passion in each area.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Your life as a follower of Jesus Christ should make nonbelievers question their disbelief.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: 2 Timothy 3:5

Tuesday: John 14:12-14

Wednesday: John 15:13

Thursday: Colossians 3:13

Friday: Philippians 2:6-7

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***

*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*