

TALK IT OVER

The Invitation

BOTTOM LINE

Believing is not the same as following.

CONVERSATION STARTER

What is one thing (habit, belief, possession, person) that was not in your daily life ten years ago? How has it changed you?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/thedaily
- [Following Jesus](#) by Charles Stanley

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. Matthew 9:9 NIV

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it. Matthew 7:13-14 NIV

"81% of people in the U.S. believe in God. Does it make a difference?"

"The Church today believes in Jesus but struggles to embrace what it really means to follow Him. We struggle to embrace His values and culture. It has hurt His Church and its influence tremendously."

"You can be a Christian and not follow in the way of Jesus."

"You can be convinced of something but not committed to it."

– Quotes by Dwight Mason

TALK IT OVER

Jesus is the One who made the dramatic statement that believing is not enough – "even the demons do that." What's the difference between believing He is who He said He is and trusting Him for salvation? Talk about the difference between trusting for salvation and actually following Jesus. What does it mean to order your life around His kingdom values? What does it mean to truly embrace His vision, values, and culture? How have you found following to be costly? Fulfilling? Is there an area you particularly struggle to embrace truly following? The name "Christian" in our culture doesn't inspire faith in us any more than it did in the days of the early church. We easily identify as "Christian," but less easily and accurately as Paul did, as a "follower of the way." Do you feel comfortable identifying yourself as a Jesus-follower or follower of the way in settings other than church? Explain. Discuss the difference between being convinced and committed. How are you ordering your life around following, learning, and becoming like Jesus?

ACTION STEP

I want to clearly identify and be easily identified as a follower of Jesus. The kingdom value I most need to learn from Him right now is _____
_____. I will prioritize by _____

