

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026



GROUPS

TALK IT OVER

THE WAY | SESSION 2: FOLLOWING JESUS

For the eight weeks of The Way group study, the weekly Talk It Over Guide will reflect the content from the group study.

CHECKING IN

- Have you ever started something expecting one outcome, only to discover it required much more than you anticipated?
- What do you think is the difference between believing in Jesus and following Jesus?

MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

LUKE 9:23 NIV

Many people come to Jesus hoping He will fix a problem, answer a prayer, or improve their lives. But eventually our agenda collides with Jesus' agenda. At that moment, we must decide whether we will **abandon** Him or **follow** Him.

1. FAITH GREATER THAN FEAR

Matthew 10:28 · Fear often focuses on temporary **circumstances**. Faith focuses on eternal **truth**. Followers of Jesus choose faith over **fear**. Courage is not the absence of fear; it is obedience in the presence of fear.

2. A LOVE THAT ATTRACTS

John 13:34-35, Colossians 3:12-14 · People will know we follow Jesus by our **love**. Love is the primary evidence of discipleship. Followers of Jesus clothe themselves with **compassion**, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Love binds everything together in perfect **unity**.

3. A COST THAT IS WORTH IT

Mark 8:34-38 · Following Jesus requires **surrender**. Jesus calls us to deny **ourselves**. The cost of following Jesus is real. The cost of not following Jesus is **greater**. Nothing we gain in this world is worth losing our **soul**.

4. GREATNESS WORTH PURSUING

Mark 10:42-45 · The world defines greatness through power and **position**. Jesus defines greatness through **service**. Whoever wants to become great must become a **servant**. Jesus modeled the life He asks us to live. The Son of Man came not to be served, but to **serve**.

BOTTOM LINE

FOLLOWING JESUS IS NOT ALWAYS EASY.

It can be costly. It can be inconvenient. It can be uncomfortable. But a life fully surrendered to Jesus is always worth it.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think many people initially come to Jesus with their own agenda or expectations?
2. Have you ever experienced a moment when your plans conflicted with what you sensed Jesus wanted for you? What happened?
3. Which is more difficult for you right now: trusting God over fear, loving difficult people, surrendering control, or serving others? Why?
4. Jesus said people would know His followers by their love. What do you think makes Christlike love so attractive?
5. What do you think Jesus meant when He said we must “take up our cross daily”?
6. How does Jesus’ definition of greatness differ from what our culture values?
7. What is one area of your life where Jesus may be asking for deeper surrender right now?

PRAYER DIRECTION

Spend time praying in groups of two or three.
Pray specifically:

- For courage to choose faith over fear.
- For a greater capacity to love others like Jesus.
- For strength to follow Jesus even when it is costly.
- For humility to serve rather than seek recognition.
- For wisdom to surrender areas where your agenda may be competing with God’s agenda.

For those uncomfortable praying aloud, simply share one prayer request and allow someone else to pray for you.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Choose one area where following Jesus feels difficult, costly, or uncomfortable. Take one intentional step of obedience this week. Trust that what Jesus asks of you is always worth it.

DIVING DEEPER

As you read this week’s daily devotions ...

- Notice what Jesus teaches about discipleship.
- Identify areas where fear may be influencing your decisions.
- Ask God to reveal where He is calling you to greater surrender.
- Look for opportunities to love and serve others intentionally.
- Continue memorizing Luke 9:23 throughout the week.

Daily devotions for this week: newpointe.org/daily.