

Lesson 6 - Walk After Me - Leader Guide

Leader – If you would like to reach out to your group ahead of time with some Scripture to read prior to attending, we recommend Isaiah 9:1-7 and Matthew 14:22-33. Remember to cut out the Lesson 6 verses for your group to read during this lesson.

Opening Discussion:

Leader - Open with discussion about Discipleship

- In your own words, how would you describe a disciple?
- What is the difference between a convert and a disciple?

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Post Video Discussion

Leader – The hope for this discussion is that people can begin to metabolize and internalize a more holistic understanding of what it means to be a disciple. In our western mindset, we are more prone to limit this concept to a set of propositions or right beliefs. For Jesus’ audience, deciding to “follow Jesus” was an all-encompassing complete lifestyle transformation. Start the discussion by exploring what the Bible has to say about how to “walk” and then move to what it means to walk after Christ.

Walk Discussion:

- Pass out the verse cards (one per participant). Go around the circle and have each person read their verse aloud.
- Discuss your impressions about the concept of “walk” in the Bible.
 - o Why do you think God chose to use “walk” as a code word for living in the Bible?
 - o Did any new ideas stand out to you in these verses?
- Encourage your small group members to take their verse home and read it/memorize it throughout this next week.

Discipleship Discussion:

- Have a couple people share a story of when someone believed in them? How did that affect them?
- It was mentioned that when Jesus calls you to be His disciple, it is implied that He actually believes you can become *just like Him*. What lies or barriers keep you from embracing the idea that Jesus actually believes in you?
- In light of the teaching, how has your definition of what it means to be a disciple changed?
- If you picture yourself as one of Jesus’ disciples in this story, are you hanging back in the boat? Or are you jumping in the water like Peter? Why?

- The Greek idea of perfection being next to godliness has crept into our culture today. What is counterproductive about that idea when it comes to following Jesus?
- Can you think of someone that you could disciple? Do you have someone that you're discipling; someone you're believing in?

Leader - Conclude with encouraging your group to take some time this week to take inventory of their personal walk with Jesus. Encourage them to ask themselves, "am I a disciple of Jesus? Is he my Rabbi?" Have them think through ways in which they may have fallen short or failed to believe that Jesus believes in them! Remind them that Peter was both the guy who jumped out of the boat and the guy who denied Christ. Jesus' invitation to him on the beach was to re-engage, despite his mistakes. Jesus still believed in Him! His admonition to Peter was to "feed His sheep." Have your group consider; who they are discipling? Who are they encouraging? Who are they believing in? Remind them to memorize their verse!

Recommended reading prior to the next lesson: Mark 4:35-5:20