

"Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God!" Mark 10:21–24 (ESV)

- **Following Jesus means putting him before our family.**

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:26 (ESV)

- **Following Jesus means putting him before ourselves.**

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Mark 8:34 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. When Jesus called his disciples, they didn't respond with moderation but immediately dropped everything and followed him. What does this teach us about responding to the things God calls us to do in our lives? What things has the Holy Spirit called you to do that you struggle to obey?.
2. What do these verses teach us about how to give Jesus first place in our life? (See 2 Corinthians 5:15; 1 Peter 4:2)
3. Before we become a Christian, why does Jesus tell us to calculate the cost of following him? (See Luke 14:28-32; 2 Timothy 3:12; John 12:25)
4. Is following Jesus with all of our heart worth the high sacrifice Jesus demands? (See Philippians 3:7-8; Matthew 13:45-46; Matthew 13:44)
5. What is wrong with repentance that isn't accompanied by actions? (See Acts 26:20; Luke 18:13-14)
6. Paul describes the difference between godly grief and worldly grief. What is the difference? How can we make sure the grief we have for sin is pleasing to God? (See 2 Corinthians 7:8-10)

MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

How Do I Follow King Jesus?

October 14, 2018

1. Jesus' message is simple. It is repent and believe.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Mark 1:14–15 (ESV)

After John was arrested...

He must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:30 (ESV)

Proclaiming the gospel of God...

The kingdom of God is at hand....

Repent and believe in the gospel....



A. Application

We don't simply preach belief in Jesus; but we preach turning from sin and turning to Jesus.

2. Jesus' call to follow him is hard. It means giving him first place in my life.

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Mark 1:16–20 (ESV)

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee...

Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon.....

Casting a net into the sea....

They were fisherman....

Follow me.....

*For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,
1 Thessalonians 1:4 (ESV)*

I will make you become fishers of men...

Immediately they left their nets and followed him...

While becoming part of the kingdom is as easy as repenting and believing the good news of Jesus, following Jesus is the hardest thing we will do in our life because it means giving him first place.

- **Following Jesus means putting him before our money.**

And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again,