



COME, FOLLOW ME

PRACTICING Jesus

SERMON
STUDY

09.15.2024

Leader Corner

Practicing Jesus

Come Follow Me
(Following)

John 1:35-51, Matthew 4:18-27

Welcome! Whether this is your first time leading a group or you are a “seasoned” leader, know that we are 100% behind you in prayer and tangible support. We are excited for the next 12 weeks as we discover and learn to do together what Jesus said and did. Throughout this "Practicing Jesus" series we will be invited and challenged to truly follow and put into practice the things Jesus did. Each week, this resource will guide your community experience. Be sure to leave ample time to do the “with Practice” section as this will be the most formational part of our journey.

Main Idea: Apprentices of Jesus Follow Him (or Know who you are following).

Main Practice: Carve out daily time and place to connect with Jesus.

Main Teaching: John 1:35-51 & Matthew 4:18-27

A few more housekeeping items for this week:

- *Pro Tip:* Make sure everyone in the group knows where and when you are gathering this week.
- Familiarize yourself with the Practicing Jesus Landing Page (www.eastview.church/practicingjesus). Be sure also to utilize the Practicing Jesus Journal during your group gathering to help solidify decisions made during group time.

As You Begin Your Group Time:

What sports teams, music artists, authors, podcasts, or social media influencers do you regularly follow? What draws you to them?

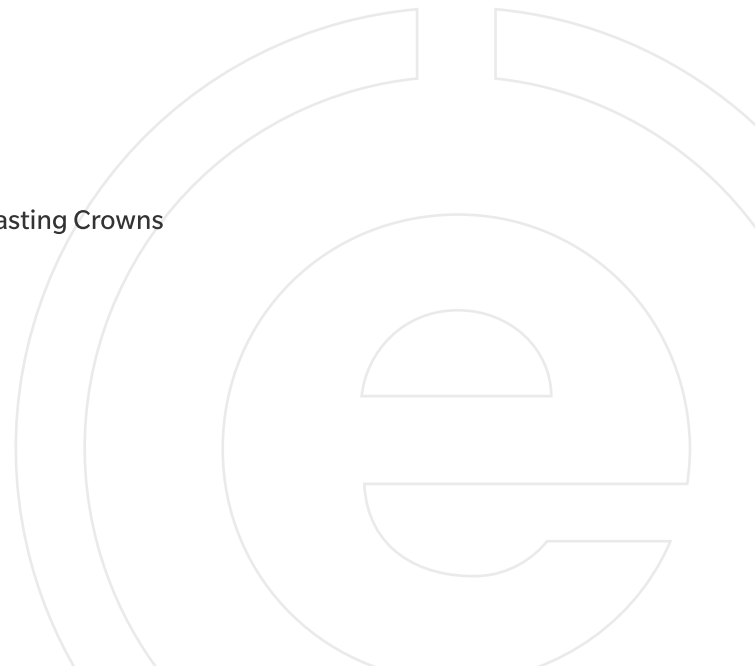
Connect with Prayer

Have someone pray the following over the group:

Almighty God, you who continually call your people to yourself, draw us by the power of your Holy Spirit into such a warm and genuine relationship that we may faithfully follow you all the days of our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

with Praise

As a group watch, sing, or read the lyrics of the song “Follow Me” by Casting Crowns



with Principle

"The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who . . . are identified as "Christians" will become disciples, students, *apprentices of Jesus Christ.*" (Practicing the Way, page 17)

1. Read John 1:35-51 and Matthew 4:18-27 as a group
 - a. Discuss Sunday's sermon. What Biblical points or stories did you write in your journal?
 - b. When in your life have you sensed Jesus calling you closer to him? How did you respond?
2. We are all following something or someone. Often, it's tempting to lump Jesus in with other things in this world that we desire. 1 John 2:3-6 helps delineate a follower from an apprentice.
 - a. How can we recognize someone who is an apprentice of Jesus?
 - b. Think of someone you respect as a "mature" follower of Jesus. How do they walk with Him?
3. 1 Peter 3:15a in the Amplified version says, "*But in your hearts set Jesus apart (as holy-acknowledging Him, giving Him first place in your lives) as Lord.*"
 - a. Take a few moments and list out the "top 5" people or things in your life and then share with the group why you wrote them down.
4. Take some time as a group to do the "with Practice" section below and then reflect and write in your weekly journal.

with Practice

Practicing Jesus means turning the idea of following Jesus into a reality in our daily life. One of the best ways to begin to 'be with Jesus' is by developing a daily prayer and scripture reading rhythm." (John Mark Comer, Practicing the Way)

The practice for this week is to carve out a specific time and place to daily connect with Jesus. The goal is for each group member to spend daily time with Jesus this week. Here's how we can do that.

First. What time of day best works for you? Be specific with the time: _____ am / pm

Second. What place is most conducive for time with Jesus?

Third. Commit daily to utilize the time and place you decided upon and connect with Jesus.

Finally. Let's practice this together right now. The key is to start where you are.

- Come to a quiet: put your phone away and remove all distractions. Maybe spread out in the space you are in. Take a few minutes to slow your breathing and your mind. Take your time, there's no need to rush.
- Open your heart to Jesus in prayer: Individually read Psalm 1 and slowly read through the chapter. Feel free

to read it a few times. Then offer some prayer to God.

- Close in unison: After about 5-10 minutes, come back together as a group and have someone close in prayer.

*(Practice adapted from the "Practicing the Way Course Guide," John Mark Comer)

For Further Study

As you go, the temptation will be to set this practice down.

Commit to practice a daily time with Jesus this week.

You may want to ask someone in your group to touch base with you each day.

- A simple text of, "how did your time with Jesus go today?" might be a motivating encouragement.
- If you have a regular habit of reading and praying daily, keep going with that.
- If you do not, consider reading a psalm a day (we suggest 23, 37, 40, 42-43, 63, 84, 86, 103 or 139).

Practicing the Way reading plan:

- read pages 1-62, which covers "Apprentice to Jesus" & "Goal#1: Be with Jesus."