

## Week 2: What It Truly Means To Follow Jesus, Not Just Believe In Him

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### 1. The Difference: Belief vs. Following

· *Discuss: What is the difference between believing in a fitness/workout plan and actually following it?*

Belief acknowledges Jesus. vs Following Jesus reconstructs and rebuilds your life around Him.

Belief in Jesus is intellectual. vs Following is transformational, surrendered and relational.

· *Reflect: What area of my life needs to move from belief to obedience?*

### 2. Follow Me: The Call to Leave

· *Discuss: What do you think the disciples thought when Jesus asked them to leave their nets and follow Him?*

Following Jesus is: immediate (they left their nets); costly (they left security); public (others saw it); daily (not a one-time decision)

· *Discuss: What "nets" do people struggle to put down today?*

### 3. Transformation: Renewing the Mind

Transformation looks like: slower to anger; faster repentance; softer heart; growing conviction; deeper dependence on Christ

· *Discuss: What does renewing your mind practically look like for Christians today?*

· *Reflect: What voices influence your thinking the most right now?*

### 4. Surrender: Dying to Self

· *Reflect: What would dying to self look like in your everyday life?*

Examples may include surrendering control, the need to be right, image and reputation, comfort

### 5. Relationship: Abiding in Christ

· *Discuss: What is the difference between having a relationship with someone and just knowing of someone?*

Think about the person you are closest to. You are closest to them, how?

- Relationship and communication
- Mutual understanding and respect
- Spending time together

· *Discuss: What does abiding in Christ look like in a busy adult life?*

· *Reflect: Is my relationship with Jesus transactional or relational?*

· *Reflect: If someone described my relationship with Jesus, what words would they use?*

### 6. Evidence of Following

Belief in Jesus can exist without fruit. vs Following Jesus produces fruit.

Obedience produces fruit. vs Transformation produces fruit.

Surrender produces fruit. vs Relationship produces fruit.

· *Discuss: What does bearing fruit actually look like?*

Fruit appears in everyday actions: forgiving when it's hard; loving difficult people; choosing integrity when no one is watching; trusting God when emotions say otherwise

· *Reflect: Are the people closest to me seeing the evidence of fruit in my life?*

· *Reflect: Who is watching your life and being shaped by the fruit you bear?*

· *Reflect: Whose soul is relying on you to bear fruit?*

