



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Invite Only – Path to Discipleship

Pastor Stephen Hayes

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Main Idea – Learning more about how we can follow Christ and do what He does by denying ourselves, taking up our cross, and following Him.

Mark 8:34-36 When He had called the people to *Himself*, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?”

With each next step, there is an increase of commitment

Figurative vs. Literal Re-Cap

Desire, Denial, Death, Follow Me

Desire - Literal

Take the time to get to know Him and to have that DESIRE to do all God has called us to do, He desires to know us intimately, this is the first step in following Him.

Denial – Literal

Luke 9:23 “Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

Having denial in our own purpose and will. To deny our own desires and choose His. Deny our own purpose and will to follow God’s that He has for our life. For His will is greater than ours.

Death – Figurative

Luke 14:26-27 “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be my disciple.”

We aren’t called to literally die... When you die to yourself and to your own desire, loving Jesus should look like you “hate” your family. In other words, we are called to love Jesus more than we love anyone else. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, loving Him each day more than we love anything or anyone else.

Matthew 10:37-38 “He who loves his father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”

Follow Me – Literal

Jesus always obeyed His Father so that is what we should strive to do, to be like Him. Not with our own strength but by His strength. To truly follow Christ has to become everything to us.

John 8:28 “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as my Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”

Because of what Jesus did, each day you have the choice to choose, again. I pray that that kind of love compels you to choose Jesus every day.

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Because of His grace, we want to please Him in everything. All of this is accomplished as we allow the Holy Spirit to have complete control of every are of our lives.

Additional notes:

- Leadership development is discipleship
- Following Jesus is following people by example who follow Jesus
- When you choose Jesus first, He will lead you to everything you could ever want and more
- When you do what Jesus did in scripture you get what He got

Reflective Questions for “Follow Me”

1. What does it mean to YOU to follow Jesus?
2. Are you following people who follow Jesus?
3. What is stopping you from surrendering and letting Jesus take over?
4. If you are holding yourself back? If so, can you identify the reason why? And will you actively change to fully follow Christ with your all?