

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK ONE
FOLLOW
“Letting Go”

ICEBREAKER: Each person introduce yourself and share if you could go to one concert, sporting event, or musical/play, what would it be and why? Leader: Start with you.

COVENANT: Go through the Small Groups Covenant together – explain the purpose of the group – community, grow, care.

LEADER: We are in a Sermon Series called *Follow* and exploring what it means to follow Jesus - which can create some conflicts.

ICEBREAKER: Who have you followed or wanted to follow in your life (coach, teacher, leader, relative...) Why? What was it about them? Leader: Start with you.

LEADER: This week Patrick talked about what Jesus said about following Him by giving to others.

READ: Matthew 16:24-26

QUESTION: What does Jesus promise will happen if we follow Him? (*You will find real life*)

QUESTION: What is the tension in these verses? (*The denying yourself part*)

QUESTION: What makes this so difficult? (*Surrendering, taking the initial step, walking away from the familiar or what we know or can readily see, requires faith*)

READ: Mark 10:17-23

QUESTION: Why do you think money is one of the top things we tend to hold on to instead of following Jesus?

(It brings us a sense of comfort, security, esteem, freedom...we believe it will make us happy or fulfilled)

QUESTION: What does it mean to steward something?

QUESTION: When have you been entrusted with another person's "treasure" to steward it? (jewelry, pictures, a child, a pet...) What was that like for you? How are stewarding and giving related?

QUESTION: How is giving something away sacrificially related to denying yourself? What are you denying in doing that?

QUESTION: What are some of the warning signs of loving money? (Compromising your integrity, doing things you never thought you would do, chasing things you never thought you would chase, hoarding, always wanting more)

QUESTION: Patrick asked us to think about what might be holding us back from following Christ – relationships, job, a wound, shame, money... What makes it so hard to let go of the thing that is keeping us from Him?

LEADER: Every week someone will get to share a little bit of their story. A great format is to take 3 positive and 3 negative things that have had an impact on who you are today. I will start. Leader - share your story in this format.

Who would like to do this next week?

LEADER PRAYER: *God show us what we are holding tightly to that you want us to release and let go of. Help me, and each one of us have the courage to deny ourselves as part of following you. Help us hear what you want us to do.*