



## Week 1: Made to Follow

### FACILITATOR'S NOTE:

- ✓ Start your group discussion with the “Check-in” question to help your members reflect back on their week and follow up on last week’s application challenge.
  - ✓ Review the “Big Idea” to help you gain clarity around the heart of this week’s message and focus your group’s discussion towards a clear direction.
  - ✓ Read this week’s scripture passages together and guide your group through the “Discuss” questions to initiate meaningful dialogue around key concepts or insights from this week’s message.
  - ✓ Move your group discussion to a deeper level by leading them through questions in “Apply”. Use discernment to customize these application questions to meet the needs & dynamics of your group.
- NOTE:** You do not have to cover all the questions provided in “Apply”.
- ✓ Connect with God together as a group through this week’s “prayer practice”, which can be in the form of a prayer exercise or some guidance on what to pray for in relation to the message or application.

<b>CHECK-IN</b>	<p><b>Conversation Starter</b></p> <p>Choose one:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Talk about one of your favourite bosses, coaches or teachers. What made it easy for you to follow that person?</li> <li>b) Which image best reflects your journey with Christ, lately? (See <b>Appendix A</b>).</li> </ol> <hr/> <p><i>Facilitator’s Note:</i> Sometimes, discussions can get into a rut. Your group may connect better to fresh ways of engaging with the content. Choice A is a familiar type of discussion question. Choice B gives a different opportunity to reflect, using visual imagery. Consider the make-up of your group members when choosing which approach to take. If you have time, do both!</p>
<b>BIG IDEA</b>	<p>Easter bridged the gap between a distant God, and a God who says, “Follow me.” We weren’t made to just watch from the shoreline. Ultimately, there are no bystanders in the kingdom of God. We were made to follow, to trust, to take the next step, and to allow God to hold our future. The message of religion is, “Change, and you can join us.” The message of Jesus is, “Come follow, and you will change.” When we’re in the proximity of Jesus, we can’t help but change. And this change influences everything we do, and the world around us. <b>This week’s theme is about reflecting on, and sharing our stories with our group, and beyond.</b></p>

<p><b>DISCUSS</b></p>	<p><b>Seeing Ourselves in the Story</b></p> <p>Have a group member read <b>Luke 5:1-11</b> out loud, while the rest of the group listens and visualizes what was happening.</p> <hr/> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put yourself in the story. What would you have heard, seen, smelled, tasted or felt?</li> <li>Read the passage again, this time, focusing on which character you identify with the most. Did you identify with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The crowd?</li> <li>Simon Peter?</li> </ul> <p>Why did you identify with that character?</p> </li> </ol>
<p><b>APPLY</b></p> <p>How do we respond to God's teaching in meaningful ways? What might God ask of us in mind, spirit, or actions?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At what point in the narrative do you find yourself? Based on that, what is your next step in following Jesus? What can this group do to support you?</li> <li>Pastor Karen shared that the message of religion is, "Change, and you can join us." The message of Jesus is, "Come follow, and you will change." Do you agree or disagree? Explain why.</li> <li>If you already have a relationship with Jesus, what was one "signpost" or turning point in your journey to following Him? This is not necessarily the point of conversion, but a milestone that changed the way your related to Jesus.</li> </ol>
<p><b>PRAYER PRACTICE</b></p>	<p>Thank God for the ways that He has moved in your lives and pray for openness and courage to follow Him in that next step.</p>

## Appendix A

Which image best reflects your journey with Christ, lately?

<p>A.</p> 	<p>B.</p> 
<p>C.</p> 	<p>D.</p> 

**Photo Credits:** A. National Geographic; B. Unknown; C. Todd Brewer; D. Petr Bambousek