

Following Jesus

First Steps

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

John 1:35-39a

After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

Luke 5:27-28

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."

1 Peter 2:2-3

"You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first."

Revelation 2:3-5b

The path of following Jesus and responding to His truth, love and power starts for each of us with a personal decision to take first steps that set us on a course to:

1. listen & learn

2. look & lean

3. leave & love



CONNECTION QUESTIONS

for personal study & individual reflection,
and small group discussion & comment

“First Steps” - John 1:29-51; Luke 5:27-32; 1 Peter 2:1-3;
Revelation 2:1-7; Hebrews 5:11-6:3

1. When Jesus called His first disciples to follow Him, most had some faith or expectation that God’s answer to their lives and their world was out there somewhere. But each one responded to Jesus as a novice not an expert. They came first to hear what He had to say about God, about life, about their time, and how they were supposed to live in it. This openness to be challenged and stretched, to wrestle and respond, is a critical element of what it means to be a “disciple” or apprentice of Jesus. What has attracted you to want to know more from Jesus? What is it about what Jesus has to say about God and life do you find compelling and credible, if not always very comfortable?

2. In John 1, the opportunity to begin to follow Jesus for Andrew and Nathanael included the invitation to “come and see” (John 1:39, 46). Why is investigation and exposure to the real Jesus such a crucial part of beginning to grow a faith that is leading and lasting? How have you responded to the “come and see” invitation? Where have you gone? What did you see?

3. 1 Peter 2:2-3 says that after having “tasted that the Lord is good” we should “crave pure spiritual milk” so that we can grow up in our salvation. What is this “pure spiritual milk” that is so essential for our growth? How does Jesus provide us with what we need as spiritual “newborn babies”? What does this mean for how we follow up with our interest and attraction to Jesus?

4. Hebrews 5:11-6:3 defines the basic “milk” or elementary teachings about Christ as “repentance from acts that lead to death, faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment” (Hebrews 6:1-2). Where in that list do you recognize that you have more to learn? What steps are you taking to lay this “foundation” of Christ’s truth in your life?

5. These first steps we are talking about are not just things we do in the beginning and then move past and outgrow. Jesus rebuked the church in Ephesus for forsaking their first love and He called them back to “the things you did at first” (Rev 2:4-5). We are always having to join the learning curve, model our behavior and way of living after Jesus, and leave other things behind in order to pursue real love and relationship with God. What “first things” is Jesus calling you to reclaim and return to at this point in your life? What does He want you to remember about how you started or where you came from?
