

Follower: Living An Authentic Faith Life

There is a craving in our world for realness. The buzzword “authentic” is a buzzword for a reason. We want the people we do life with to be *authentic*. We want the brands and movements we support to be *authentic*. We expect those who lead us to be *authentic*. We want the things that matter to us to be real. To be true. We want the experiences and encounters we have to be what they are supposed to be.

But what about our faith? Are we willing to ask what an authentic relationship with Christ looks like? And once we find out, are we willing to do something about it? How do we pursue a faith that’s real? The Bible goes into great detail to show what an authentic faith looks like. But the heart of this definition comes in a few words from Jesus, a short phrase, uttered by Christ at the beginning of His ministry. “*Follow me.*”

Living out a faith that is true and real in today’s world? It’s about being a follower. A Christ-follower. *Follower* will help you understand what real faith looks like and how to live it out.

Small Group Outlines

Small Group Session 1

- **Session Title:** The Call To Follow
- **Session Purpose:** To introduce the concept of “following” as the true foundation for their faith-relationship with Christ, and to get students thinking about whether or not they follow Christ’s example or someone else’s.
- **Main Scripture:** Matthew 4:17-22, Matthew 9:9, John 1:43
- **Supplemental Scripture:** Matthew 16:21-26
- **Session Snapshot:** Becoming a Christian is about faith. Salvation is made possible by God through the work of His Son, Jesus. Most of your students know what kind of life they were saved from. But what kind of life are we saved to? What does it mean to truly live an authentic faith-life? In this lesson your students will learn that living out their faith starts with following Christ. They’ll be challenged to think about who or what they are following.

Small Group Session 2

- **Session Title:** What Does It Mean To Follow?
- **Session Purpose:** To define what it means to follow Jesus, and to challenge your students to compare their own faith with this definition, looking for ways they’re both on and off track.
- **Main Scripture:** Matthew 16:24, John 12:25-26, Matthew 3:1-10, Matthew 10:37-39
- **Supplemental Scripture:** None
- **Session Snapshot:** In session 1, you helped set the table for this session’s focus. Your students should have firmly grasped the concept that the foundation of an authentic faith is not just admiring Jesus from afar, but fully following Him. This lesson will answer the vitally important question: “What does this look like?” In this session, you’ll look at four different snapshots from Scripture to define what it means to follow Jesus. When this session is over, your students will know what it means to be a follower and will have a chance to look at their lives and see if their faith matches up.

Small Group Session 3

- **Session Title:** The Cost Of Following
- **Session Purpose:** To remind your students that following Jesus is not without its cost, but to encourage them that following Christ is still the only way to real life.
- **Main Scripture:** Luke 9:57-62, John 15:18-21, John 16:33

- **Supplemental Scripture:** None
- **Session Snapshot:** Your students understand the call to follow. And they know what it looks like to follow Christ. They understand what the Bible has to say about it. And they know what it looks like to live this out in their day-to-day lives. But do they understand what it will cost them? This lesson will help your students understand the cost of following Christ, but will also help them see that it's worth every moment they spend walking with God.

Small Group Session 4

- **Session Title:** A Boost For The Journey
- **Session Purpose:** To encourage students as they commit to pursuing an authentic faith with Christ, empowering them to make real change in their lives.
- **Main Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, 2 Corinthians 4:7-9, John 14:25-27, Hebrews 12:1-3
- **Supplemental Scripture:** None
- **Session Snapshot:** In this final lesson, you'll spend time wrapping up your time spent studying *Follower* by encouraging your students as they strive to live out what they've learned. You'll use four different passages of Scripture to help encourage them to be intentional in their faith (1 Corinthians 9:24-27), to be strong when it gets tough (2 Corinthians 4:7-9), to be encouraged that the Spirit goes with them (John 14:25-27), and to be motivated by Christ (Hebrews 12:1-3).

Large Group Outlines

- Large Group Session 1: John 10:1-6
- Large Group Session 2: John 10:7-10
- Large Group Session 3: John 10:11-16
- Large Group Session 4: John 10:22-24, 25-30

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