



This Home Group Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however, we encourage you to check out one of our warm and friendly Small Groups.

LESSON AIM: to help you become a fully devoted follower of Christ by choosing to walk God's path for your life.

Connect15 min.



PRAYER: Begin your time with prayer. We encourage you to quiet yourself, acknowledge God's position, and ask God to open your mind and heart to the lesson aim for today.

ICEBREAKER: When you were dating, did you ever get caught two-timing? Did anyone ever two-time you?

When working on a group project, what excuses do people use to postpone or avoid fulfilling their obligations?

Strengthen35-40 min.



KEY PASSAGE: Jesus – *"If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me."*

Matthew 16:24 NLT

1. What is required of the one who would follow Jesus?
2. Please read Luke 9: 57-62. Where were Jesus and His disciples when this story began? To what lengths did the first man say he would follow Jesus? What was Jesus' reply to the first man's statement of devotion? (vv.57-58)
3. What did the second man want to do before following Jesus? How did Jesus respond to the obligations of family life? (vv.59-60, 62)
4. What did the third person want to do before following Jesus? (v.61)

5. Who is not fit for the kingdom of God? (v.62)
6. Given Jesus' replies to the three would-be followers, what do you suppose their conflicting loyalties were?
7. What did Jesus want the three men to do? With which of these men do you most easily identify?
8. From this account, how would you summarize the costs of following Jesus?

Bless15 min.



What could you do or who could you help this week to help you remember your loyalty to Jesus? How would that activity reinforce your loyalty to Jesus?

Invite10 min.



With whom in your circle of family or friends can you reaffirm your desire to follow Jesus?

Celebrate15 min.



Turn your prayers into praise because God loved us enough to make a way for us to be in a relationship with Him. Praise him because his will is that we would become like him and he has provided the power through his Spirit for us to become everything he wants us to be.

Replace your insecurities with power and confidence that comes from choosing to take God's path.

Pray for other praises and needs of the group members.

- _____ Behind

“...This is what the LORD says to Zerubbabel: It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.” **Zechariah 4:6 (NLT)**

“Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.” **Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)**

Question:

_____?

- _____ in the Presence of Obstacles

“Nothing, not even a mighty mountain, will stand in Zerubbabel’s way; it will become a level plain before him!” **Zechariah 4:7a (NLT)**

“...but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.” **Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT)**

Question:

_____?

- _____ to the End

“And when Zerubbabel sets the final stone of the Temple in place, the people will shout: ‘May God bless it! May God bless it!’” **Zechariah 4:7b (NLT)**

“Zerubbabel is the one who laid the foundation of this Temple, and he will complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of Heaven’s Armies has sent me.” **Zechariah 4:9 (NLT)**

“... let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.” **Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT)**

Question:

_____?

Choosing to Take God’s Path

David Carothers - January 9, 2011

“You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” **Psalms 16:11 (ESV)**

Our Values

We desire to demonstrate authentic and passionate lives in Christ individually and corporately. Therefore we value...

Value #1

Jesus – “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to Me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.” **Luke 6:46-48a (ESV)**

Jesus – “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow Me.” **Matthew 16:24 (NLT)**

I Choose God’s Transforming Path When I...

- _____ God

“I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl of oil on top of it. Around the bowl are seven lamps, each having seven spouts with wicks. And I see two olive trees, one on each side of the bowl.’ Then I asked the angel, ‘What are these, my lord? What do they mean?’ ‘Don’t you know?’ the angel asked. ‘No, my lord,’ I replied.” **Zechariah 4:2-5 (NLT)**

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” **Romans 12:2 (NLT)**

Question:

_____?

