

# TAKEAWAY

## Look Up, Look Out

### Part One: Follow the Leader

#### DESIRED OUTCOMES

- To see that we get our understanding of church and how to live by looking at God.
- To be encouraged to press on in following Jesus.

#### SHARE

Who are some of the people you admire and 'follow'? Think news, social media, etc...

#### READ

**Matthew 4:18-22**

#### DISCUSS

What, in your own words, did Jesus ask the first disciples to do?

Why is Jesus' call to the fishermen so urgent that they leave their nets immediately to follow Him? Do you feel that same urgency applies today? Why or why not?

What do you think following Him would have 'cost' them?

#### EXPLAIN

In Jewish tradition, rabbis had two types of followers: students (*studentim*) and *disciples* (*Talmidim*). *Talmidim* is very distinct from the word student. A student wanted to learn what their rabbi knew, but being a disciple was more like practical training or an apprenticeship. It meant learning to become more like your teacher – knowing, being with and imitating them.

This passage shows us (at least) four things about what following Jesus means:

1. Being (more than vaguely) familiar with what He says
2. Making some sort of effort to do what He says
3. Acting like it's not just 'for you'
4. Holding expectations loosely

#### DISCUSS

*The below discussion questions relate to each point:*

1. If being a disciple of Jesus means following and learning all he has to say about God, who we are, life and how to live it:
  - How familiar are you with what Jesus commands throughout the Gospels?
  - What do we tend to emphasise that Jesus doesn't, or ignore than He prioritises?
2. Jesus is specific about how to live – it's more than being nice. The disciples had to leave their nets – their way of life was to be different.
  - John writes in the New Testament, *'those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.'* (1 John 2:5-6). What does it mean to live your life as Jesus did?
  - If you had a very detailed diary of everything you've done in the last year, what would someone who read it and didn't know you think you believed, based on your actions?
3. Jesus gives them an outward focus – he says: *"...I will send you out to fish for people"* (v19).
  - To what extent is your faith 'outward focused'?
  - What motivation do you have for sharing Jesus with others?

4. For the disciples, following Jesus came above the familial, societal and cultural expectations for how they were to live their lives.

- What expectations do you think those around you have for you that are not lined up with the way of Jesus?

### SHARE

Which of the four things do you think you need most help with right now?

How can anyone in the group support you? (*Note these for try outs and prayers*).

Dallas Willard writes: *'The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as 'Christians' will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heaven into every corner of human existence.'*

Is he right? Why or why not?

### TRY OUT

Ask the group how they might live out what you've learned and discussed. Here are a few ideas:

- List out 2-3 practical things you can do to help you learn more about what Jesus says or share Him with others. Commit to start trying them out this week. Check in with the group in a few weeks time to see how you're getting on.
- Create a diary of the significant things you've done in the last year – what did you spend your time on? What did you prioritise?. Simon, Andrew, James and John left their nets to follow Jesus *'at once'*. Reflect on any priorities, habits or expectations around how to live your life that Jesus may be calling you to leave *'at once'* in order to follow Him more faithfully. Share this with one person from the group and ask them to check in with you in a few weeks time to see how you're getting on leaving them behind.

### PRAY

Pray together that God would transform us to be more like Jesus and ask for the Holy Spirit's help with the things that came up in discussion. You may find it helpful to listen to a worship song that helps you reflect and pray:

**More Like Jesus – Canaan Baca**

[youtu.be/cjPZunR9JFU?si=w\\_RGO4hbCIY70igx](https://youtu.be/cjPZunR9JFU?si=w_RGO4hbCIY70igx)