
Next Week's Life Group: Follow Me ... To The Mountain
Next Week's Story: Matthew 5:1-12 - The Beatitudes

Our Church's Definition of a Biblical Disciple of Jesus

A person who is committed to *following, being changed by,* and *on mission* with Jesus (taken from Matthew 4:19).

The Purpose of Life Groups

Life Groups are where we connect with God and with others through relationships - growing in spiritual maturity as biblical disciples of Jesus and inspiring a culture of discipleship as we do life together. Life Groups are loving, safe, and interactive places where people can be authentic and vulnerable as they explore, experience, serve, and grow in relationship with Jesus, the Word, and others. Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11.



FOLLOW ME

*And he said to them, "Follow me,
and I will make you fishers of men."*

Matthew 4:19

GETTING STARTED

Describe a situation where you completely changed your mind to the opposite of where you started.

STORY BACKGROUND

Elijah had been promised his successor - Elisha. The Lord told Elijah to "*anoint Hazael to be king of Aram . . . Jehu son of Nimshi to be king of Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shephat from Abel-Meholah to replace you as my prophet*" (1 Kings 19:15-16). Elijah traveled to Abel-Meholah, found Elisha, and threw his cloak over Elisha's shoulders. The cloak or mantle was the most prized piece of clothing - used for everything from a coat to bedding. Symbolically, Elijah's cloak carried his power and authority. Elijah was asking Elisha to carry on Elijah's ministry as his "*rightful successor*" (2 Kings 2:9b).

Elisha was a man who had significant wealth and responsibility. He had twelve pairs of oxen plowing his field (1 Kings 19:19). Twenty-four oxen was a sizeable herd. A large amount of money was invested in the oxen, the plows, the upkeep of the land they worked, and the housing & feeding the oxen. Elisha, however, was not wealthy enough to hire enough workers to do all the plowing, since he was plowing with his workers.



STORY: 1 Kings 19:19-21

MEMORY VERSE:

John 12:26 - *If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.* (Jesus)



Head Level: These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.

- What did Elisha do before he went with Elijah?
- How did Elisha show that he was committed to Elijah?



Heart Level: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- What does it mean to be a disciple? How are you fulfilling or not fulfilling this call?
- Do you think it is fair for God to ask someone to leave everything, sometimes including family, and follow Him?
- Is there anything keeping you from following God completely?



Hands Level: These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

- Has God, or is God, asking you to adjust your priorities? If so, what steps do you need to take to obey?