
Next Week's Life Group: Follow Me: To The Cross

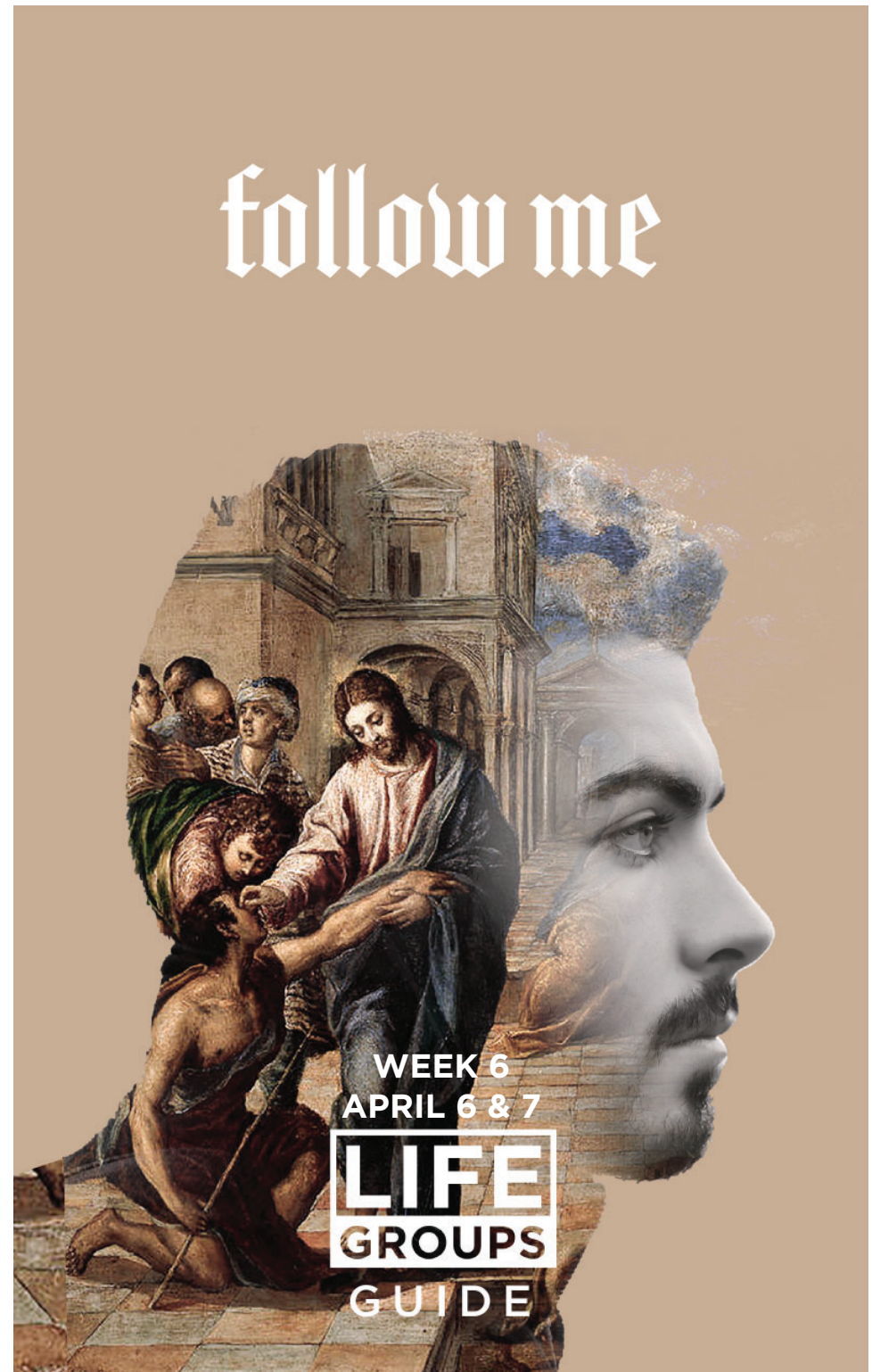
Next Week's Story: Barabas (Matthew 27:15-26, Mark 15:6-15, Luke 23:18-25)

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

But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted.

Luke 23:23-24

GETTING STARTED

Are you a risk-taker? Why or why not?

STORY BACKGROUND

Simon was originally from Bethsaida and lived in Capernaum. He was married and was a partner in a profitable fishing business with James and John. Simon met Jesus through his brother Andrew, who followed Jesus after hearing John the Baptist proclaim Jesus as the Lamb of God. Upon meeting Simon, Jesus gave him a new name: Cephas (Aramaic) or Peter (Greek), which means “rock”. In Matthew 16:18-19, Jesus says to Peter, *“I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven”*. Later, Jesus officially called Peter to follow Him. Immediately, Peter left everything behind to follow the Lord.

For the next three years, Peter lived as a disciple of the Lord Jesus. Being a natural-born leader, Peter became the de facto spokesman for the Twelve. He was part of the inner circle of Jesus’ disciples, along with James and John. He was an outspoken and ardent disciple, one of Jesus’ closest friends, an apostle, and a “pillar” of the church. Peter was enthusiastic, strong-willed, impulsive, and, at times, brash. In several instances, Peter showed himself to be hasty. For example, it was Peter who left the boat to walk on the water to Jesus. It was Peter who took Jesus aside to rebuke Him for speaking of His death. It was Peter who suggested erecting three tabernacles to honor Moses, Elijah, and Jesus. It was Peter who drew his sword and attacked the servant of the high priest. It was Peter who boasted that he would never forsake the Lord, even if everyone else did. But for all his strengths, Peter had several failings in his life. Still, the Lord who chose him continued to mold him into exactly who He intended Peter to be.

TO THE TRIAL



STORY: Luke 22:54-62
(Matthew 26:69-75, Mark 14:66-72,
John 18:15-18, 25-27)

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 10:32-33 - *“So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”*



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

- Who was asking Peter if he was a disciple?
- What was the indicator that Peter realized that Jesus’ prediction had come true?
- How did Peter react to the denial and why?



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

- Have you ever denied being a follower of Jesus?
- What do you make of Peter’s denial of knowing Jesus when Jesus prophesied that Peter would be the rock/foundation of the church (Matthew 16:18-19)?



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

- How can you demonstrate your faith in Jesus today?
- How do you show your love for Christ?