

# How Do I Follow Jesus?

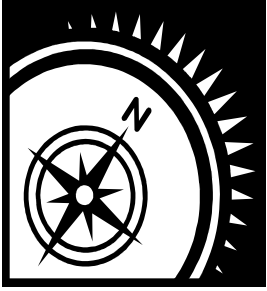
## Week One

1. Read Colossians 1:15-20. Make a list of the remarkable claims made about Jesus' person and power in these verses.
2. What are the implications of all this for our own personal discipleship and obedience?
3. Read this quote and discuss your thoughts.

*Whatever controls us is really our god....The one who seeks power is controlled by power. The one who seeks acceptance is controlled by the people he or she wants to please. We do not control ourselves. We are controlled by the lord of our life....Jesus' ownership of our lives is not a control that manipulates us or takes away our dignity. He governs our lives...by being who he is without compromise and by insisting we become all that we are meant to be. And this can only occur through following him, obeying him, and maintaining a living, passionate kinship to him....God created us for himself. If we live with any center other than Jesus, we will be living incompletely....Is Jesus' desire to be the Lord of our lives some little fetish of his? Why is it so important to him? Besides the fact that he deserves it because of who he is, he knows he is the only one in the universe who can control us without destroying us. No one will ever love you like Jesus. The last breath Jesus breathed on this planet was for you. Jesus will meet you wherever you are, and he will help you. He is not intimidated by past failures, broken promises, or wounds. He will make sense out of your brokenness. But he can only begin to be Lord of your life today-not next month but now.*

--Rebecca Pippert

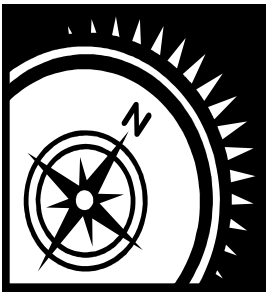
4. Discuss how Jesus "controls us without destroying us." What does this mean to you? How have you experienced this in your life?



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## Week Two

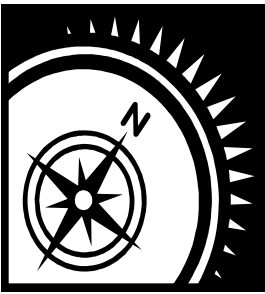
1. Read Luke 9:21-36, 52-62. What do we learn about discipleship from vv.22-25?
2. What do we learn about discipleship from vv.57-62.
3. What do we learn about discipleship from vv.51-56?
4. The following is a list of questions that is meant to help us evaluate areas of lives. Read these questions. Share your reactions. Share what these questions expose in your life and how you may need to give and submit them to the Lord.
  - "Am I willing to obey whatever God says about this life-area no matter how I feel about it?"
  - "Am I willing to thank God for whatever happens in this area whether I understand it or not?"
  - "Is there something in this area I am relying on more than God for my hope and meaning in life?"
  - "Are there problems or limitations in my life I think are too big for God to remove?"



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## Week Three

1. Read Luke 14:15-24. Put this parable in today's vernacular. What types of things would take us away from the banquet? Why won't those who were invited taste Christ's banquet?
2. Read 14:25-35. Share a time in your life when you had to count the cost to be follower of Christ. What was the most challenging aspect of counting the cost? What was the outcome?
3. Do you think there is a relationship in this passage between counting the cost and being "salt?" If so, what is it?
4. In what ways can you help each other count the cost as a small group?



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## Week Four

1. Read Luke 13:22-35.
2. Dietrich Bonhoeffer says when “Christ calls a man (or woman) , He bids him come and die.” Read this quote and discuss what you think Bonhoeffer is teaching, along with the implications of this teaching in our lives.

*Cheap grace is the enemy of the church. It means forgiveness of sins proclaimed as a general truth...an intellectual assent to that idea is held to be itself sufficient to secure remission of sins. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance...grace without discipleship, grace without a cross....Costly grace is the gospel [of the church]...It is costly because it costs a man his life, and grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his son...it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God....When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die. That is why the rich young man was so loath to follow Jesus, for the cost of his following was the death of his will. In fact, every command of Jesus is a call to die, with all our affections and lusts.*

-- Dietrich Bonhoeffer<sup>4</sup>

3. What is “cheap grace” as used in this context?
4. Describe the dangers of a mere intellectual assent to the Gospel to the Church.
5. Summarize why Bonhoeffer says grace is costly.
6. How does this “costly grace” affect the way we live?