

disciple

THE
CALL
TO FOLLOW

LIFE GROUP STUDY
WEEK OF JAN 19

READING ASSIGNMENT

Each week in this series, we will include an important reading from a wide variety of gifted spiritual leaders to help us better understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. You will find PDFs of these selections on our website at rockypeak.org/disciple/.

Please read these selections each week before you start the Life Group study.

We will also provide hard copies of these selections at Starting Point on the patio of the Worship Center at all of the weekend services.

This week's reading is pages 2-17 from *Practicing the Way* by John Mark Comer. You can access the reading by scanning the QR code on this page.



GETTING STARTED

This weekend we kicked off our new series, *Disciple... The Call to Follow*. We learned that to be a disciple of Jesus requires more than believing He died for our sins. A true disciple is someone who gives their complete allegiance to Jesus and obeys His teaching with the goal of becoming like Him.

As you begin the study, reflect on this verse. Write down anything the Lord highlights for you.

The student (disciple) is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will become like the teacher. **Jesus, Luke 6:40**

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

If you could instantly be an expert in any field, what would it be and why?

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. As we start this series, what are you looking forward to the most? What are your hopes for this series and your spiritual growth?

2. What are one or two key insights that stood out to you from the message this weekend—and why?
3. How would you have defined what it means to be a disciple of Jesus before this message?
 - a. Now that you've heard the message, has your definition of a disciple changed in any way? If so, how?
4. This weekend Michael shared that “disciple” was the most common word used in both the Gospels and the book of Acts to describe a believer of Jesus. Read the following passages where Jesus talks about what it means to be His disciple.

- Luke 6:40 (ESV)
- Mark 8:34-36
- John 8:31-32
- John 13:34-35
- John 15:4-8

- a. Which of these passages is most insightful to you right now? Why?
 - b. What is most challenging for you from these passages? Why?
 - c. Reread John 15:8. What fruit are you bearing in your life for the Kingdom of God right now?
5. In this week's reading assignment, *Practicing the Way*, on page 10, Comer says:

“To follow Jesus is to become his apprentice [disciple]. It's to organize your entire life around three driving goals:

1. Be with Jesus.
2. Become like him.
3. Do as he did.”

- a. Which of the three comes most naturally to you? Which of the three do you need to grow in the most? Why is that?
 - b. What are some steps you could be taking to organize your life around each of these three driving goals?
 - c. What is hindering you from doing so?
6. Read the following quote from page 16 of *Practicing the Way*:

Much preaching of the gospel today does not call people to a life of discipleship. Following Jesus is seen as optional – a post-conversion “second track” for those who want to go further. Tragically, this has created a two-tier church, where a large swath of people who believe in God and even regularly attend church have not re-architected their daily lives on the foundation of apprenticeship to Jesus.

- a. Towards the end of the message, Michael said that a true disciple is someone who has absolute allegiance to Jesus. As you examine your life and walk with the Lord, have you given your absolute allegiance to Jesus? Explain.
 - b. Can you think of any areas in your life where your obedience to Jesus might be compromised right now?
 - c. What changes might you need to make to cultivate a life of discipleship to Jesus?
7. As you finish the study this week, take some time to pause and think about this study. Where is your discipleship to Jesus truly at? Is it healthy or does it need some work? Thank God for the ways He has grown you and helped you bear fruit. Maybe ask for forgiveness for the ways you've fallen short. Ask for strength and wisdom to grow in obedience.



TOPICAL PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of each Life Group. Often those who are new to a Life Group are intimidated by praying aloud if they have never done it before. Others are so comfortable with prayer that they can take over the prayer time without meaning to. For these reasons, we suggest practicing topical prayer to help your group get comfortable praying together. Here are three basic guidelines:

1. Focus on a Single Topic/Request at a Time

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request. Once a topic is introduced, one or two members pray for that request. Then the Life Group Leader will direct the prayer time by sharing the next topic/request.

2. Pray Several Times Together

By focusing on one topic at a time, each member has an opportunity to pray at different times for the requests they are most passionate about.

3. Keep Requests/Prayers Short and Simple

By keeping both requests and prayers short and simple, everyone has a chance to share and pray. This helps those who are new to prayer feel more comfortable praying. It also helps everyone stay focused during your time of prayer together.