



**1, 2, 3, Follow**  
**Pastor Dave Patterson 06.08.2025**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

**[Matthew 16:24-26]**

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?"

**[Acts 1:1-3]**

In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

**[Acts 1:4-5,8]**

Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.... And you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

**[Acts 2 22-23, 36-37]**

“People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip... So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!” Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

**[Acts 2:38-41]**

Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away all who have been called by the Lord our God.” Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

**Step #1. Repent / turn to God**

Metanoia = -A change of heart and mind, leading to a change in behavior.

**[Romans 10:9-10]**

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

**Step #2. Be baptized**

baptizō =

to immerse, to submerge (as a vessel sunk) to cleanse by submerging

**[Romans 6:3,5-7]**

When we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death. For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ, we were set free from the power of sin.

**Step #3. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit = empowerment to live in freedom and reach the world!**

**[Acts 19:1-6]**

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where he found several believers. “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” he asked them. “No,” they replied, “we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” “Then what baptism did you experience?” he asked. And they replied, “The baptism of John.” Paul said, “John’s baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus.” As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in other tongues<sup>[b]</sup> and prophesied.

**Step #4. Follow Jesus with a community of believers**

### **Key Points:**

- 1. Repent, turn to God**
- 2. Be Baptized**
- 3. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**
- 4. Follow Jesus with a community of believers**

### **Applications for the Week:**

Community is essential for following Jesus. Are you planted in The Father's House and connected to other believers? What is one way you can say yes and take your next steps this week?

### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1.** What does it mean to you, to follow Jesus with your life?
- 2.** According to Jesus in Matthew 16, what are the requirements for someone who wants to be Jesus' disciple?
- 3.** In Acts 2, what was the crowd's response to Peter's preaching, and what steps did Peter tell them to take next?
- 4.** What does Romans 6 say happens to our old self when we are baptized into Christ Jesus?
- 5.** The sermon says that denying ourselves and taking up our cross is not a one-time event but a daily choice. What might this look like in everyday life?
- 6.** The word of God is described as powerful and able to pierce our hearts. Can you think of a time when a Bible passage convicted or challenged you?
- 7.** Repentance is more than feeling sorry, it's a change of direction. Is there a specific habit, relationship or mindset you need to turn away from to follow Jesus more fully?