

**Follow Me—Eliminating the Options**  
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**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon  
and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

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 together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the  
questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships.  
Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

**[Matthew 28:18-20]**

***Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”***

***Conversion is an event, and discipleship is a lifelong process.***

**[John 13:35]**

***“By this all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love (Agape’ Unconditional, God kind of love) for one another.”***

***Discipleship is always about a generational increase.***

**[1 Kings 19:19-21]**

***So Elijah went and found Elisha son of Shaphat plowing a field. There were twelve teams of oxen in the field, and Elisha was plowing with the twelfth team. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak across his shoulders and then walked away. Elisha left the oxen standing there, ran after Elijah, and said to him, “First let me go and kiss my father and***

*mother good-bye, and then I will go with you!” Elijah replied, “Go on back, but think about what I have done to you.” So Elisha returned to his oxen and slaughtered them. He used the wood from the plow to build a fire to roast their flesh. He passed around the meat to the townspeople, and they all ate. Then he went with Elijah as his assistant.*

1. Disciples respond to a personal invitation that initiates a journey.

*There’s something about receiving an invitation that requires a different journey. You must be willing to step over the line into a lifelong journey that makes you different than you are right now.*

2. Disciples make inevitable and permanent lifestyle adjustments.

*“Elijah replied, ‘Go on back, but think about what I have done to you.’ ”  
(vs 20)*

*Retreat is easy when you leave yourself options.*

*To take up your cross means that you’re already dead and in the process;  
deny your version of you and follow Him!*

[Matthew 16:24-25]

*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.*

3. Disciples stay committed regardless of delay, resistance or personal loss.

*There is a version of your life that you haven’t seen yet (increased capacity, untapped potential, and abundant life).*

[Philippians 3:7-8]

*But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.*

#### **FOR MONDAY—**

- 1. Pray about any lines that you need to step over in order to embrace true discipleship. Eliminate any lingering options that present a temptation to walk away.**
- 2. “Play the movie forward” and consider any changes to your trajectory that would help you leave a better legacy.**

#### **TALK IT THROUGH**

- 1. What would you do if you just had a few days left to live? How would you spend your time?**
- 2. What are some of the most important words passed on to you from people in their last days?**
- 3. Why do you think Christianity looks different to different people? Why is the biblical definition of a Christian missing?**
- 4. What are some examples of the chasm between true discipleship and cultural Christianity?**
- 5. If conversion is an event but discipleship is a lifelong process, how do we make disciples? Who is in your sphere that you can follow you in following Christ?**
- 6. When have you experienced an “everything changes today” moment? Have you had any specific mantles passed to you? (i.e. Elijah to Elisha)**
- 7. What are some personal losses for you that actually produced forward momentum in your discipleship journey?**
- 8. When looking at cities on the faith journey of Elijah and Elisha—Gilgal (the rolling away of reproach), Bethel (house of God and place of the presence), and Jericho (the entrance into the full inheritance)—what “more” do you have left in you?**