

Follow Me—Better Words to Live By
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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.

The Bible is more than just the recorded words of Jesus; It is the breathed and written Word of God: the very essence, nature, and being of Jesus.

[John 1:1-4,14, NLT]

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God, He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone... So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

***A true disciple lives according to the Word of God - period.**

***The driving force of mankind is the pursuit of paradise.**

[Ecclesiastes 3:11, NLT]

...He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

[Romans 1:20-23, NLT]

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. And instead of worshipping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

We want paradise, but we don't want to live it God's way. Anything that you give your time and affection to, that is not God, is an idol.

Critical Theory says, “Nothing is universal, nothing is objective. Everything is subject to your experience. ‘Truth’ is what you want it to be. ‘Objective truth’ is not real, it’s simply a tool of oppression that those in power use to stay in power.”

“This is a worldview that centers social and cultural grievances and aims to make everything into a zero-sum political struggle revolving around identity markers like race, sex, gender, sexuality, and many others. ...It sometimes feels as though any well-intended person, even one who values universal liberty and equality, could inadvertently say something that falls foul of the new speech codes, with devastating consequences for her career and reputation...”

-Helen Pluckrose & James Lindsay, Cynical Theories: How Activist Scholarship Made Everything About Race, Gender, And Identity – and Why This Harms Everybody

One of the main themes of postmodern philosophy is the idea that **language shapes culture**. (i.e. ***my truth, offense, toxic masculinity, STAY WOKE***)

Words shape destinies of individuals, families, and nations. We have allowed ourselves to be shaped by other words for too long; we need better words to live by—The Bible.

[Luke 5:1-5, NKJV]

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."

Disciples believe that the Word of God is complete, absolute, and sufficient to live by.

[John 14:23-24, NLT]

Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. Anyone who doesn't love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me."

"Keeping God's Word is the supreme test of the disciple's love for God... You don't love God more than you love His Word." - Derek Prince

[James 1:22, NLT]

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

[Proverbs 2:6, ESV]

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

[Psalm 1:1-3, NLT]

Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.

[Psalm 19:7-8, NLT]

The instructions of the Lord are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are clear, giving insight for living.

[Psalm 119:97-100,105, NLT]

Oh, how I love your instructions! I think about them all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are my constant guide. Yes, I have more insight than my teachers, for I am always thinking of your laws. I am even wiser than my elders, for I have kept your commandments...Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

[John 8:31-32, NLT]

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

[Ephesians 5:25-26, TPT]

...For he died for us, sacrificing himself to make us holy and pure, cleansing us through the showering of the pure water of the Word of God.

[James 1:25, NLT]

But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

I want to live a life that is actively blessed by God; the way to do that is by applying His Word and doing what it says.

[Luke 5:6-7, ESV]

And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

FOR MONDAY—

- 1.** Ask the Lord to give you more humility, passion, and compassion.
- 2.** Pursue soul health by going to God’s Word as the first thing in your day. Before you take in anything else, start with His Word.

TALK IT THROUGH

- 1.** Where do you go to find definitions? How important is context?
- 2.** How have you seen language shape culture? How have you witnessed or experienced “cancel culture” in recent times?
- 3.** When have you had a “throw your nets on the other side” experience, like Peter, where Jesus has asked you to do something ridiculous and you obeyed?
- 4.** Read Luke 5.6-7. What are some “nets” of yours that have broken or been damaged? How did you step out in faith to see the ridiculous become the miraculous?
- 5.** How much do you love God’s Word? What factors can grow our love for it? Which passages have spoken to you most? How have they influenced your destiny?