

# WEEK 2: “Follow”

Sermon Notes:

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## OPENING QUESTIONS

- 1 Describe a time when God called you to do something crazy or seemingly impossible to do.
- 2 As God began to work through you to do the impossible, what did you find most surprising?
- 3 What did you learn from this experience that will help you next time God asks you to do something crazy or impossible?

# Follow (Abraham)

## Genesis 12:1-4

*<sup>1</sup> The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."<sup>4</sup> So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed.*

Abraham's obedience to leave his homeland and follow God's call to an unknown destination illustrates a profound act of following.

**1** God called Abraham (Abram at the time) to a path he could not yet see. Have you given God a "blank check" with your life, or do you retain control for your path ahead? What does it look like to give God a blank check in this season of your life?

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**2** Which areas of your life give you the feeling of security? (job, friends, family, money, etc) What would it look like for God to be your source of security?

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## Follow (Jesus)

Matthew 16:24

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'*

- 1 What does it mean to deny yourself? What do you think it means to take up your cross once you've denied yourself?

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- 2 Who in your life have you seen model this idea of denying themselves to pick up their cross? Does their life scare you or inspire you?

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- 3 If you practiced this in your own life, how could it influence the world around you? (coworkers, family members, friends, neighbors, etc.)

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## Follow (Financial Giving)

### Matthew 19:21

*Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."*

Jesus' conversation with the rich young ruler emphasizes the act of selling possessions and giving to the poor as part of following Him.

- 1 Jesus laid out the steps in a specific order. Why do you think Jesus says "sell your possessions and give to the poor" before saying "follow me"?

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- 2 How could the concept of treasures in Heaven impact your decision or actions today?

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- 3 How do we allow how much we have/don't have or how much we make/don't make to affect how closely we follow Jesus?

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**NEXT STEPS** | Establish as an individual, couple, or family what it would mean to deny yourselves and pick up the mission of Jesus instead.