

### iii) To be my disciple

“Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple ...’ Luke 9:23

‘He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and ...’ Mark 3:14

‘Let him lead me to the banquet hall, and let his banner over me be love’ So.2:4



We live in a world where it seems that everyone wants something from us - to do more, to be more, to give more.

But Jesus calls us first to a relationship with him.

‘Whoever wants to be my disciple’ is a call to a person, to Jesus. Not first to do lots of things but a call to simply come to him and to be with him.

When Jesus called the first 12 disciples, “*He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them*’. Note the order - to be with him is first.

Yes, Jesus wants to use your life and for you to have the joy of walking and working with him, but he first wants you.

His banner over you is love.

As we explore more of our call to be his disciples, never lose sight of his priority, that he calls you to be with him – is that your priority?

### Pause for Personal Prayer



Jesus’ first priority is for you to be with him – has it been your priority?

### Discuss



- What does it mean that Jesus’ first priority is you rather than what you do?
- Is that your priority?

### Taking it Further

Take time during the week to remember that Jesus Christ has called you first to be with him. Pause to read and pray over the scriptures in this session.

# Following Jesus Christ

## Monday to Saturday

### 1: A Personal Call



#### Imagine yourself ...

It’s Monday morning, you’re going about your everyday business but there seems to be something different happening in your heart.

Things around you are the same, it’s just a normal day but you realise that you’re ...

confident of God’s call on your life & your part in his kingdom work,

confident of his presence within you sufficient to meet every challenge,

confident of his desire to use you today for his glory,

that you’re not troubled by anything, your heart is at rest.

This is what your call to follow Jesus Christ looks like.

We all have good days and not so good days but for each of us it’s a journey of faith which grows stronger as we learn to walk with Jesus.

In this short Lent course we’ll be exploring our own next steps in that journey.

#### A suggested outline for the session

Open with worship and prayer

Divide your time between the 3 sections

In each of the 3 sections ...

. Ask someone to read the scripture & reflection

. Pause for a few minutes of personal prayer

. Then discuss the questions given

. At the end allow 10mins for personal prayer

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## i) You are called.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30.



First of all know that you, personally are called.

Jesus Christ – the Lord of all the universe, the Son of God, Almighty One – has called you to be his disciple! Try and get your head around it.

It doesn't matter whether you think you're good enough, strong enough, know enough etc – that's not the issue. He's called you and he wants you.

It doesn't matter how old you are or how young you are – he's called you.

It doesn't matter what's happened in the past – he's called you today.

He's not looking around to choose someone better - he's called you.

And he promises that this call is not going to be too much for you. If you're tired and can't face anything more, listen to what he says:

*'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'* Mtt 11:28-30.

Hearing and following this call is how we find true rest.

We'll be exploring our response shortly, but first, know that you are called.

### Pause for Personal Prayer



Jesus Christ has called you to be his disciple – pause to pray.

### Discuss



- Do you know that Jesus has called you to be his disciple?
- What helps you to be confident of that call? – share your own story.
- What hinders your confidence in his call?

## ii) Whoever wants to be my disciple

“Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me”. Luke 9:23

‘When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, ‘What do you want?’” Jn 1:37.38



When Jesus calls us he also gives the way to become his disciples.

*“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me”. Luke 9:23*

We'll be exploring each step of that way in turn but the first is to 'want'.

Pause to ask yourself, do you want to be his disciple?

It may seem a strange question, but it's the one that Jesus asked Andrew, I know you've begun to follow me but 'What do you want?' (John 1:37-38)

You can follow or you can walk away – it's your choice, what do you want?

It's important to be clear because what you want will carry you through the challenges and joys of the path ahead.

You may have made your choice years ago but make it again today.

What do you want?

### Pause for Personal Prayer



Do you want to be his disciple? - pause to respond to him.

### Discuss



- Do you want to be Jesus' disciple? Share.
- Have there been times in the past when you've been more willing?
- Have there been times or challenges where you've been less willing?