

iii) For his glory

'A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house' Matthew 5:14-15

'If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.' John 15:7-8

Sometimes through fear of showing off we try to stay small.

But God's paid a high price for you and he's put the light of his presence within you for a reason, don't hide it under a bushel!

Sometimes we think God wants to use others - the spiritual giants, the missionaries, the church minister - but not me. We could not be more wrong!

Jesus said: *'This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.'* John 15:8

Only you have the family & friends that you do, only you live and work where you do. Monday to Saturday the spiritual giants aren't there – only you!

If God wants someone to pray where you are, he'll need to use you.

If God wants a branch to bear much fruit to show his glory where you are, he'll need to use you. There are no spiritual giants - he needs you!

'This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit.'

Pause for Personal Prayer



'This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit' - Pause to pray.

Discuss



- Read Mtt 5: 14,16. Why do we hide our light under a bushel? Discuss.
- Read John 15:7-8. Where do you want to bear more fruit?

Taking it Further

Take time over the week to pray over John 15:7-8. As you go about your everyday life ask him to show you how to remain, to ask and to bear his fruit.

Following Jesus Christ

Monday to Saturday

6: And Follow Me



'Follow me' is a personal invitation by Jesus to a lifelong journey.

We're all learners and we'll make many mistakes, but it's a journey with him.

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

Imagine yourself following Jesus ...

Walking with him where he wants to walk,

Carrying his presence within you,

Being involved firsthand in his Kingdom work.

Imagine that again, this time following Jesus Monday to Saturday ...

Into your home to relate with family & friends,

Into your community or social setting,

Into your workplace. Imagine.

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) Follow Me

'And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' Matt 28:20

'He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.' Psalm 23:3

'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.' Ephesians 2:10



'Follow me' is a wonderful invitation ...

1) We are never alone. Whatever God calls us into, he will be there with us - *'surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'* Matt 28:20

2) We don't have to worry about finding our way, we simply follow him.

'He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake' Ps 23:6 - he knows the paths that are right for you and he will guide you.

Many sincere Christians worry about 'what does God want me to do?' But relationship with him comes first, he leads, we follow – that's the order.

3) *'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.'* Eph 2:10

God made you, then saved and created you in Christ Jesus for a reason. He's prepared good works in advance for you to do.

You don't need to search for the good works, you just need to walk with him into them. They've got your name on them!

Pause for Personal Prayer



'For you are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for you to do.' - Do you believe it?

Discuss



- Read Matt 28:20. He is with us always – share your own experience.
- Read Psalm 23:3 He promises to lead us – share your experience.
- Read Ephesians 2:10. What does that mean for you? Imagine.

ii) You are not your own



'You are not your own; you were bought at a price.' 1 Corinthians 6:19,20

'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 11:29,30

Denying ourselves, taking up our cross daily and following Jesus becomes a whole lot easier when we realise that we are not our own!

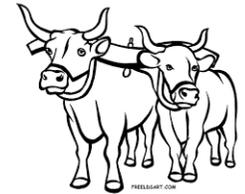
He's brought us at a price, we belong to him..

He knows the good works he's prepared in advance for us to do, we're his.

But he never forces us, being his disciple is to willingly take his yoke upon us.

To walk with him
To be guided by him
To learn from him
To work with him.

To find rest for our souls!



All of us are called to walk and work with Jesus in our families and community.

A few of us have part of our call in a church setting - licensed or voluntary.

But for the majority, his call is to walk and work with him in a secular setting, in our offices, businesses, factories, schools, medical settings, communities etc.

That's how his kingdom comes and his will is done, on earth as in heaven.

Pause for Personal Prayer



'You are not your own; you were bought at a price.' Pause to pray.

Discuss



- Read 1 Corinthians 6:19.20. What are the implications for your life?
- Discuss the image and the implications of being yoked with Jesus.
- What does it mean to 'find rest for your soul' Matt 11:29?