

Follow- Week 2: Fully following Jesus is not just blind faith

1. A final decision.

Matthew 4:18-22 (ESV) *8 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them.22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.*

2. From a first impression

John 1:35-42 (ESV) *35 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).*

3. That led to a first step

Luke 5: 1-11 (ESV) *On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, 2 and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.3 Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. 7 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. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.*

Big Ideas:

1. Being a sinner does not disqualify you from following Jesus.
2. Even being a nonbeliever doesn't disqualify you from following Jesus.
3. Jesus' invitation to follow him is not an invitation to a set of rules.
4. Following Jesus forces me to focus on where I am rather than on where you are.

Application: *Follow up questions.*

- How does Peter's reaction to catching the fish fit in with these big ideas?
- What was your first step to following Jesus?
- What should your next step be in following Jesus?
- What is something you have tried 1000 times your way that you are ready to relinquish to doing it God's way?
- Andrew is introduced to Jesus by John the Baptist, Simon (Peter) is introduced to Jesus by his brother, Andrew, Peter introduced thousands: As you follow Jesus, take time to reflect on the person or people who introduced you to Jesus. What hangs in the balance now that you're a Christ follower?