

Follow Me – Week 3
The Priorities of a Disciple
Small Groups - Bethany Church Long Beach

Intro:

- What part of this week's message was the most challenging or interesting?
- Share any verses in the bible (a favorite) that have been encouraging or challenging in the area of discipleship?

Starter:

- If you had an opportunity to compete in the Olympics and had unlimited training and funds for three years to attempt it, what sport would you pick and why? What hurdles do you think you would face if you attempted to go after such a lofty prize?
- If a person followed you each day for the next week and looked at your schedule (how you use your time), what would they say are top priorities in your life?

Group Questions:

Read Hebrews 5:12-14, 1st Timothy 4:7-8

- Based on these passages, what does it mean to follow Jesus?
- What would it look like if your body reflected spiritual fitness?
- Are there areas in your spiritual life you want to grow but have difficulty? (Share with group and pray for one another.)

If you closely examine the life of Jesus, you'll find that he spent a great deal of time preparing the twelve disciples to carry on after He left. Of the twelve, Peter, James and John seemed to compose an inner circle of those closest to Jesus. Jesus' parting words to the disciples were, "Make disciples of all nations. Teach them to obey everything I taught you." (**Mt. 28:18-20**). Paul taught the same thing: "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (**2 Tim 2:2**). It is not enough to preach the gospel to all nations. Those who believe must also be taught to obey all that Christ has taught. This is the essence of discipleship.

God calls upon us not only to be disciples, but also to make disciples. Each one of us is uniquely connected to a network of lost people who constitute our calling. We can become what the twelve became—workers sent by God to those who are lost. If the gospel is truly to penetrate a place, it will be through the people Jesus calls salt, light, and good seed—people for whom indifference has been replaced by love and concern. Those who become believers should then be channeled into a discipleship program to encourage their growth. The cycle continues as new believers learn, grow, and eventually reach others for Christ.

- What would cause one to believe that there is a difference between regular believers and disciples?
- What is challenging about the idea of gaining freedom through priorities or discipline in our faith?
- What are some reasons believers don't participate in the disciplines more fully?
- Describe what disciple making looks like in your life? Use as much detail as possible.

Pray as a group to close your time together.