



## ***Followers of Jesus Christ***

### **Series Overview**

Following Christ involves a wholehearted commitment. Disciples become like the Master, learners become like the Teacher. Christianity is not simply a ticket to heaven. No self-serving version of Christianity will bring us to maturity in Christ, allowing the church to minister and serve God, others, and the world. No self-centered version of Christianity will let us enjoy the fullness of Christianity in full-faced relationship with Christ. Answering the call to follow Jesus turns our lives in a different direction. We can't follow unless we go where he leads. This series of small group discussions looks at centering our lives on Christ, weathering the storms of life, going where Jesus goes, caring for others, and focusing on God's grace.



**April 19, 2009**

### **Session Three: Going Where Jesus Goes**

**Theme:** *Going where Jesus goes has always been a risky proposition, but the rewards far outweigh the risk.*

**Texts:** Matthew 14:25–31; Luke 9:23–26; Acts 14:19–20; 16:1–3

**Summary:** Peter saw the power and significance of Jesus' life in His control over even the elements of nature, and Peter wanted to experience it too. He wanted to join Jesus in doing what only Jesus could do. Later when Peter correctly answered the question about Jesus' identity, Jesus said that the power to deny self, bear one's cross, and follow Jesus is intimately tied up in knowing who He is. Paul went where Jesus told him to go, even though it was different than his plans and his wisdom. In this lesson we ask, "What does it mean to go where Jesus goes in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?"

### **Ice Breaker**

In our modern society, what are the places you think Jesus would go?

What are some places where Jesus would not go?

Which of your acquaintances would Jesus know?

Are there people among your acquaintances whom Jesus would not know?

When have you tried to go where Jesus goes, and struggled as Peter did with the waves?

When have your plans to follow Jesus ended in shipwreck? [Share the stories of those who will.]

When has Jesus wanted you to go somewhere or talk to someone, but that you would rather not?

### **Bible Study**

What do you think was Peter's attitude when he asked Jesus if he could come to him on the tumultuous waves?

He was asking for permission to get out of the boat

He was asking for a confirmation that he was really seeing Jesus

He was expressing his faith (Lord, since it is you....)

He was asking if Jesus would empower him

He was asking Jesus to give him a superior place among the twelve

Jesus in this context suggests that losing life to find it involves cross bearing. How did the disciples respond?

Yippie! We all get crosses!  
Give me a light one  
Anything for my Lord  
Later, Lord

What did the Macedonian call teach Paul?

Go wherever God wants you to go  
Go where you can do the most good  
God where people need you

Paul was left for dead as he sought to tell the story of Jesus. What is his attitude?

I am blessed to suffer for my Lord  
I'm going to have to be more careful what I say and to whom I say it  
Any price is too little, considering what God has done for me.

### **Applying**

What is your attitude when Jesus tells you to come to him on the tumultuous waves of life?

That's OK, Lord, I have plenty to do right here in the boat  
I'll go, but only if you walk beside me  
Look at me go, Lord!

Which is closest to your attitude toward cross-bearing?

Yippie!  
Give me a light one  
Anything for my Lord  
Later, Lord

What do you think is the Macedonian call for this church?

Go wherever you want to go  
Go to the hurting people around you who need help  
Go to your friends and neighbors  
You can avoid the dirty parts of society if you'll work hard on attracting the Christians  
Don't go to them, let them come to you

Paul was left for dead as he sought to tell the story of Jesus. What is your attitude?

I'll try as long as it doesn't hurt  
I'll devote as much of my spare time to this as I can  
Any price is too little, considering what God has done for me.

### **Connecting**

How can we help one another go where Jesus goes?

Jesus sent his disciples out in pairs. Is it easier to go in pairs? Is there a lesson here that we need to learn?

Choose someone as a partner and commit together to doing one act of service in the coming week.

Who do you know that is interested in following Jesus? Put them on your daily prayer list and pray for them every day this week, as you seek opportunities to go where Jesus would go?

Remember our question this week: not WWJD (what would Jesus do?), but WWJG (where would Jesus go?)