



## GETTING PERSONAL

**KEY SCRIPTURE** | Mark 8:27–35

**SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2017**

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

In Jesus' time, disciples had to seek the approval of the rabbi they wanted to follow. The rabbis tested them on their knowledge, asked them to recall large portions of scripture, and determined whether they had what it took to be their disciple. When a disciple asked to follow a rabbi, he was committing to do everything he could to be like the rabbi. He was agreeing to follow the rabbi everywhere he went and do everything he did.

Jesus turned this system on its head. Rather than waiting for disciples to come to him and prove they had what it took, He sought them out. They didn't meet the cultural standards of a rabbi, but He invited them to follow Him anyway.

Following Jesus isn't about being good enough. It's about who we are because of His sacrifice on the cross. If we acknowledge who He is, accept His ways, and do what He does, we can follow Him.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever shared who Jesus is with someone who didn't know Him? What was it like? If you could do it all over again, would you do anything differently?
2. Looking back at your notes from Sunday's message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
3. If you're a follower of Jesus, what do you remember about your decision to follow Him? If you're not a follower of Jesus, what, if anything, appeals to you about following Him?
4. Part of following Jesus is acknowledging who He is. How can you do that in your daily life?
5. Sometimes God does things in ways that don't make sense to us because He can see the bigger picture. Is there anything in your life that just doesn't make sense to you right now? How could you handle that?
6. Read Mark 8:34. What difficult sacrifices have you had to make to follow Jesus? Were they worth it?

## WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Take an objective look at your daily life. Are you living the life of a Jesus follower? Does anything need to change?

