

faith reframed

ESSENTIALS FOR FOLLOWING JESUS TOGETHER

Week 2 | Reframing Discipleship

framing question

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

REFRAMING JESUS

John 6—"Believing in Jesus"

Sidekick-savior vs. Christ Jesus (*Jesus is yeast, not icing*)

So ... what do we do?

Matthew 28:16-20—Our goal is discipleship

The reorienting of our entire lives around Jesus (*not the other way around*)

But ... that sounds like works righteousness!

REFRAMING FAITH AND WORKS

Luke 10:25-37

Discipleship is about alignment, not earning

So ... what does that look like in practice?

Luke 15:11-32—Children, not slaves

Faith= trusting that God actually knows and wants what is good for me

Practicing our way into better loves

table talk

Honesty is a must as we seek to grow in following Jesus together, but this is impossible without mutual respect and confidentiality. Make room for each other to share. As you discuss the questions below, we ask you to **avoid advice giving**. People are likely to share personal things, and you may want to tell them what to do about it. Instead of giving advice, ask questions. Ask why. Ask them to elaborate. **Trust that God is at work**. As a group, feel free to focus on the questions that seem most useful to you. You are not required to get through them all, and no one has to share. **Building trust takes time!**

group discussion questions

1. We all approach Jesus as a side-kick in some areas of our lives and as Lord in others.

Are there examples you're open to sharing from your life?

2. Reorienting your life around Jesus sounds overwhelming. This is the work that God is inviting us into, day by day, and it is good news. It's good news because wherever Jesus is in charge, healing and wholeness appear.

Where is it difficult for you to trust that Jesus knows and wants what is best for you?

3. You are God's child. Like a parent, he calls you to some things and away from others, not to harm you, but because he loves you. The cross is the ultimate evidence that he can be trusted. Are there other truths or experiences that you have had that help you trust God?

4. Our lives begin to transform when we put the real stuff of our lives in God's hands. "Trusting God" doesn't mean you have to feel safe or unconcerned about a difficult situation, it means doing whatever you think God is inviting you to, even if it isn't the choice you would have made on your own. Trusting him over and over with small things, over the long haul, brings profound transformation.

Is there something, small or large, that Jesus is inviting you to trust him with this week? What would it look like, practically, to trust him?

homework

IN A SPIRIT OF COMPASSIONATE CURIOSITY—ROMANS 5:8

Over the next two weeks, become your own life-observer. Notice the actual day-to-day rhythm of your life. What is your life oriented around now? What is Jesus' role in the things that are happening? How, practically, is he inviting you to trust him?

week 2 review

Friends,

This past week we asked: **What does it mean to be a Christian?**

We recognized that answering this question always begins with understanding who Jesus is:

Jesus is King, not our sidekick. We have been invited into his life, not the other way around.

The Christian life, then, is a call to discipleship—the reorientation of our entire lives around Jesus. This sounds like a lot, and it is. But it's good news. It is good news because Jesus is good!

Discipleship requires discipline (as the word suggests). It is work. So before getting on with it, we must be very clear about why we are doing it. This begins with understanding who we are: because of Jesus' victory over sin, hell and death, we have been made children of God.

As children, we work, not to earn our Father's love, but to grow up and become like him. We are not trying to earn something we don't have; we are learning to fully embrace who we really are—children of the King.

This isn't easy. Sin is in the way. Most of the time, we do not want what God wants. Faith means doing things God's way anyway because we trust that he knows better than us. If we do this enough times, and see others doing it too, we will find that God's idea of good and ours match up more and more. This is what Christian maturity looks like: loving God with all our hearts and loving what he loves (other people).

Love is something that we cultivate every day, through our habits, what we consume and the community that we choose. We tend to become whatever we invest ourselves in. This is how worship works. For a disciple, the question is always, "What did you practice loving today?"

So, let's make that long summary short: **Jesus is King. We are his kids. He invites us to be with him and follow him, for the same reasons that any good parent does—love. As we submit to him, we will become like him, over time. This is what our lives are for, but it doesn't happen on accident. It takes practice.**