

# Life Small Groups – Big Impact Connections

## *THE LIFE OF A JESUS FOLLOWER*

*STOP LIVING FOR JESUS  
SO JESUS CAN  
LIVE THROUGH YOU*

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE: WEEK 4

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WEEK 4

***CONNECT:***

***I BELONG***

# DAY 1

## JESUS FOLLOWERS

### *CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER*

#### READ

*Read the following passages slowly and carefully.*

John 1:12

John 17:17, 20-23

Romans 8:16-17

Luke 8:19-21

#### EXAMINE

*Answer the following questions:*

*What does the Bible say?*

*What do these passages teach me about following Jesus?*

#### APPLY

*Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.*

*What is the unique connection that binds believers together?*

Jesus followers share a unique connection to one another that we won't see in relationships among those who haven't yet believed. Jesus gives insight regarding the depth of that connection in John 17. There is a unity that exists exclusively among

believers. John compared this supernatural connection to the relationship that has existed for all of eternity between the Father and the Son.

The Father and the Son share an eternal, intimate, and vibrant relationship that our human minds can't fully grasp. Likewise, because of our relationship with God, we've entered into a family relationship with God Himself. As God's children, we're connected to all other Christians intimately and eternally. This is why Jesus was able to say that those who follow Him are His true family.

*What value do you place on your spiritual family?*

*How can you be more connected to God's family?*

**DO**

***Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.***

*Write out a prayer to God thanking Him for your spiritual family.*

# DAY 2

## JESUS FOLLOWERS

### *LOVE ONE ANOTHER*

#### READ

*Read the following passages slowly and carefully.*

John 13:34-35

John 15:1-7

1 John 4:12

#### EXAMINE

*Answer the following questions:*

*What does the Bible say?*

*What do these passages teach me about following Jesus?*

#### APPLY

*Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.*

*What are the two primary commandments in John 15? Why does this matter?*

Jesus followers are in a relationship with God Himself. As a result, all Jesus followers share an intimate connection with one another. The greatest indicator of the state of our relationship with Jesus is our love for one another. The two primary commands in John 15 are “abide in me” and “love one another.” It’s impossible to truly love God and not love one another. The two go hand in hand. The fruit of intimacy with Christ isn’t isolation from others but rather connection with one another.

Love for one another isn't a suggestion; it's a command of Jesus. Therefore, our connection extends beyond emotion. Emotions may accompany our love for others, but genuine love for one another is characterized by positive action (John 15:13). Genuine love always moves Jesus followers to act, not merely "feel" love toward one another. Christ demonstrated this as His love for us moved Him to the cross. Our love for each other motivates us to self-sacrifice and service towards others in the family of God.

*What things in your life take priority over the relationships God has given you?*

*How do you demonstrate love for other Christians?*

**DO**

***Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.***

Ask God to reveal your lack of love for other believers. Ask Him to show you how to love others biblically and to give you the strength to love like He loves you.

# DAY 3

## JESUS FOLLOWERS

### *HAVE GENUINE FELLOWSHIP*

#### READ

*Read the following passages slowly and carefully.*

1 John 1:1-7

#### EXAMINE

*Answer the following questions:*

*What does the Bible say?*

*What do these passages teach me about following Jesus?*

#### APPLY

*Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.*

*Reread the verses and notice the number of times John used the word “fellowship.”  
What is necessary before true fellowship can take place?*

If you grew up in church, you’re probably familiar with the way churches use the word “fellowship.” Typically, it means a meal together at the church. The meal may even take place in the “fellowship hall.” But the word “fellowship” is greatly misunderstood in the

church today. Prayerfully, over the next two days, God will give us greater understanding of true biblical fellowship.

The Greek word the biblical authors most often use for “fellowship” literally means “to share in the life of another.” The word means the fullest possible partnership and relationship with God and other believers. The kind of fellowship with God that the Scriptures call us to only comes from a personal encounter with the living Christ and surrendering to Him as Lord of our lives. It’s an intimate love relationship with God that grows sweeter each day as we follow Jesus. However, this type of fellowship relationship doesn’t stop with God. Jesus followers have this type of relationship with one another as well.

In today’s reading the apostle John wrote about his fellowship with God. John had an experiential knowledge of Jesus. This is the way we know God—in a real, intimate, and experiential way. This relationship deepens each day we follow Jesus.

*How would you describe your relationship with other believers?*

*Do you value your fellowship with other believers as highly as you value your fellowship with God?*

## DO

***Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.***

John proclaimed Jesus so others would believe and come to know Him the way he did. The result would be fellowship with God and other believers. In verses 3-4, John says when we see others come into fellowship with God, our joy is made complete by seeing the cleansing work of Jesus in the life of someone else.

*List ways that fellowship with other believers can bring them and you joy.*

# DAY 4

## JESUS FOLLOWERS

### *HAVE GENUINE FELLOWSHIP*

### *(PT. 2)*

#### READ

*Read the following passages slowly and carefully.*

- 1 John 1:7
- 1 John 2:9-11
- 1 John 3:10, 14-17
- 1 John 4:7-8, 20-21
- 1 John 5:1-2

#### EXAMINE

*Answer the following questions:*

*What does the Bible say?*

*What do these passages teach me about following Jesus?*

#### APPLY

*Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.*

*Read the previous verses again and notice the words brother(s) and love.*

*In the space below, write in your own words the interdependence between our fellowship relationship with God and our fellowship relationship with one another.*

You can't be in fellowship with God and not walk in fellowship with one another. The two are interdependent. The Scriptures make clear your relationships with other believers are an expression of your relationship with God. John even says those who claim fellowship with God and don't love their brothers and sisters are liars. In other words, it's easy to profess with your mouth a relationship with God. How we relate to one another will prove or disprove the validity of that claim. It's impossible to love and have fellowship with a God we can't see and not love other believers whom we can see.

True fellowship with others means loving others the same way Jesus loved us—by laying down our lives for the good of one another. Jesus followers love with a sanctifying love by being as committed to the spiritual growth of others as we're to our own.

It's impossible to be in fellowship with God and not walk in godly fellowship with one another. The two are interdependent. This isn't a burdensome truth but one that John says will make our joy complete!

*What does your love for other believers reveal about your relationship with God?*

**DO**

***Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.***

*Ask God to continue to give you better understanding of this truth and of specific ways to live it out this week. Make a list of some specific ways.*

# DAY 5

## JESUS FOLLOWERS *SERVE ONE ANOTHER*

### READ

*Read the following passages slowly and carefully.*

John 13:1-17  
Philippians 2:1-11

### EXAMINE

*Answer the following questions:*

What does the Bible say?

What does the passage teach me about following Jesus?

### APPLY

*Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.*

*Based on John 13, Of what was the washing of the disciples' feet an expression?*

Jesus was a servant. As He lives through you, you'll become a servant as well. In the Jewish culture, the task of washing feet was such a demeaning task that Jewish servants weren't required to carry it out. Only non-Jewish servants were expected to stoop to this level of humiliation. The disciples likely considered the task someone else's responsibility and thus the task went undone. They were too busy arguing about who was the greatest (Luke 22:24).

As an expression of His infinite love, the God of the universe took a towel and the basin, and washed the filth of the world from the feet of His disciples. He commands us to do the same (v. 14). If you're following Jesus you're not above your master. No act of

service you could ever perform could surpass the humiliating act of Jesus being mocked, beaten, forced to carry a cross, and publicly executed. True blessing is found when you embrace humility and serve one another in love.

*What areas of service do you shy away from because they're someone else's responsibility?*

*Are there areas of service you consider beneath you?*

**DO**

***Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.***

*Whose feet might God be calling to wash by performing a sacrificial act of timely service?*

*What act of service can you perform?*