



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN  
Church and School  
Learn, Live, Share...Christ

## **Adult Bible Study – New Year, New Me, Same God**

### *Lesson 2: I am a follower of Jesus*

*Then Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” Mark 8:34*

We have all been called to follow after Jesus. Through His blood, we are ransomed, saved from the ways of sinfulness and brought into a new life. It’s a new year, we have been made new and are made new each and every day. God remains the same in all of this. His love for you has never changed. His love has no bounds. We will see this as we explore our study today.

What does it mean to follow? Jesus calls each and every one of his disciples to follow him. We read about that last week as we spoke and discussed the first disciples. Peter and Andrew, the sons of Zebedee were called to let down their nets and follow him. Matthew, while he was sitting in a tax booth, was called by those same words. This week we will explore who we follow, who we are called to follow, and what that means for each of us here today.

#### **Who we follow:**

*Who do we follow in our personal lives?*

This could be any number of things, politicians, athletics, celebrities, prominent members of society, people in the Church at large.

Often we follow any number of these things with great enthusiasm.

Sometimes what we follow divides and separates us when we should be united. The early church also experienced this. Let us turn to *1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:1-9* to see what Paul has to say about who we follow.

In summarization, Paul states that God is the one who makes us grow. Through Jesus we are called to follow. We belong to him.

#### **Who we are called to follow:**

*Who are we called to follow then?*

As we learned last week about the disciples, Jesus called them with these words, follow me.

It is with the call that Jesus places on his disciples that their lives are drastically changed. The call to follow Jesus is not an easy thing to do. Many times we get caught up in the things of the world or bogged down with all of the troubles of this world.

Let us turn to *Matthew 13:1-8*

The seeds sown in this parable are sown on the path, the rocks, the thorns, and the good soil.

Now turn to *Matthew 13:18-23*

*When have you seen this parable take place in your life?*

One of the major take-a-ways we can see in this parable is that the Sower throws the seed on everything. This call is given to us and through the Holy Spirit we respond in faith to that call.

The Lord's call is not exclusive to those who were with him in the first century. Turn to *Acts 2:38-39*. This promise of forgiveness and the Holy Spirit is for everyone. Jesus came for all people.

### **What does this mean?**

First and foremost, our lives are completely changed by what God has done for us through Jesus. We have a new way of living. A new you.

Let's turn to *1 Peter 1:13-25*.

Be holy as the Lord is holy.

There is a new you coming every day. The Lord has washed and redeemed you by the blood of Jesus.

You have been called and now live in a new life.

Peter tells us that because we now live a new life, since we are now followers of Jesus, since we have been made new through the living and abiding word of God, we should love one another from a pure heart.

### **In a group:**

*What are some ways in which you can join Jesus in his mission and share this great good news with those around you?*

*Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Matthew 16:24-25*