

RESPONSE

WEEK 1
I Follow

ICEBREAKER

When you were young, who did you imagine being like? Possibly a movie star or a super hero or someone famous and why did you want to be like that person?

SCRIPTURE READING

Read together as a group: **1 Samuel 3**. Take turns reading a verse at a time.

Three times God calls Samuel in an audible voice because He had a leadership mission for Samuel to carry out. However, notice who Samuel was in the verse just prior to God calling him into leadership. In Samuel 3:1, we read that before Samuel was called to be a great leader, he first became a great follower.

"Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the Lord by assisting Eli."
— 1 Samuel 3:1

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

• Aristotle said, "He who cannot be a good follower cannot be a good leader."

Do you think he is right? Why?

• **Read Judges 21:25**

This verse summarizes the culture of how the people were living as we begin to look at the world of Samuel. The people of Israel rejected the standard of God's Word and accepted their individual standard of what was right in their own eyes. Everyone wanted to lead according to what they thought best. Nobody wanted to follow.

Describe a personal or historical situation where a lack of leadership or lack of followers mimics Israel's situation.

When have you been a good follower? When haven't you been a good follower?

• We have been speaking about discipleship in terms of the I -E- R method.

I - Information (gaining new insight)

E -.Experience (putting what we learn into practice)

R - Relationships (Becoming like Jesus is the greatest thing we could ever wish for someone!)

Small Group Leaders

Read the "Special Super Secret" Question

• **Read Philippians 3:17 & 4:9**

Having read these Scriptures, who are you following as an example of Christ in your life?

And are you an example worth others following for their Christian walk?

• Pastor Mark shared a quote in his message,

"A disciple is always ready to take the next step. If there's anything that characterizes Christian maturity, it is the willingness to become a beginner again for Jesus Christ. It is the willingness to put our hand in His and say I am scared to death but I'll go with you." — John Wimber

When considering being a disciple or discipling others what fears, concerns, or inhibitions come to your thoughts as you consider this quote from John Wimber?

• As we read in 1 Samuel 3 earlier, we read that the Lord called Samuel and Samuel did not recognize the Lord's voice.

How do we know when the Lord is calling out to us today? Samuel had Eli as a mentor to guide Him. How would having someone more mature in their faith help you in your Christian life?

Are you willing to allow someone to be that mentor and speak into your life and are you willing to be a mentor in speaking to others lives?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

If you have time feel free to use these questions during your small group session. Otherwise take time this week and reflect on the following two questions and write in your journal what you are hearing from God.

What is Jesus saying? Where is he asking you to trust him? Where is he encouraging you these days? Where are you feeling his love in your life? What areas in your life style and a habits is he speaking to you about changing?

What am I doing in response?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Be intentional to help someone because help is a love based word that sums up all the various intentional actions in disciple making. It might be a family member, neighbour, co-worker or a complete stranger but make it your mission this week to make an impact in someone's life by helping them. This intentional action should be something that you typically would not do. It would be something that would stretch you beyond your comfort zone and bring glory to God.

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