

DISCIPLE

THE JOURNEY OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Bridge City
CHURCH

Part 11: Your Next Step Is Your Best Step

June 28, 2026



CONVERSATION GUIDE



SMALL GROUPS

After learning how the Holy Spirit strengthens us, how community helps us grow, how to faithfully steward the resources God has entrusted to us, and how to influence others through our example, we have reached the conclusion of this series. Today we are reminded that discipleship never ends; there is always a next step. God does not call us to compare ourselves with others, but to respond in obedience to the step He is placing before us.

In **Mark 1**, Jesus called Simon, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him, and they responded by leaving behind what had been at the center of their lives in order to walk with Him. Their response was not the result of understanding everything immediately, but of trusting Jesus and beginning a new journey. Following Christ is an ongoing process in which He progressively transforms what we believe, our character, and the way we live through consistent obedience.

Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" And they left their nets at once and followed him. A little farther up the shore Jesus saw Zebedee's sons, James and John, in a boat repairing their nets. He called them at once, and they also followed him...

Mark 1:17-20a (NLT)



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. As you read **Mark 1:17–20**, what stands out to you most about the response of Jesus' first disciples? Why do you think that detail is significant?
2. Jesus taught in **Luke 9:23** that following Him means denying ourselves and taking up our cross daily. When have you discovered that following Jesus required a deeper daily decision than you originally expected?

3. If you were completely honest with yourself, what obstacle is keeping you from taking the next step God is showing you in this season of your life?

A disciple is a follower of Jesus who is progressively believing His words, progressively imitating His character, and progressively obeying His commands.



MAKE IT PRACTICAL

Jesus invites us to take the next step of obedience:

1. **Recognize Where You Are.** A disciple is honest with himself or herself. Take a few minutes to honestly evaluate your walk with Jesus and identify one area where you need to grow in this season.
2. **Take the Next Step.** Choose one specific action you can begin this week to obey Jesus, and write it down somewhere visible so you will remember to put it into practice.



PRAYER

"Jesus, thank You for calling us to follow You and for continuing to transform our lives day by day. Thank You for showing us, through Your Word, the path we are to walk. Help us respond with honesty and obedience to the next step You have for us. Beginning this week, may we walk closer and closer to You. Amen."



TIPS

- A disciple of Jesus understands that the most important decisions often begin with one simple step of daily obedience.
- Don't be discouraged if you are still growing; God works patiently as long as you remain willing to follow Him.
- Discipleship does not end with a series or a course. Following Christ is a lifelong journey in which every step brings us closer to becoming more and more like our Master.



Evaluate Your Spiritual Health

<https://form.jotform.com/261516351864055>

