

THE 7-DAY CHALLENGE: FOLLOW ME... AGAIN

Seven Encounters With Jesus

"As for you, follow me."

John 21:22 CSB

THIS WEEK: DON'T RUSH FORWARD - GO DEEPER

You have completed all 21 chapters of the Gospel of John! This week, instead of racing into another book, we're going back to seven encounters with Jesus. Read slowly. Put yourself into the story. Pay attention to Jesus.

Continue using what we've learned:

1. **WHAT DOES IT SAY?** - What do I notice?
2. **WHAT DOES IT SHOW ME ABOUT JESUS?** - What am I learning about Him?
3. **WHAT SHOULD I DO?** - How should I respond?

But this week, we're asking one question everyday:

4. **WHAT IS JESUS TEACHING ME ABOUT FOLLOWING HIM?**

DAY 1 – JOHN 1:35-51 Come and See

Jesus' first disciples begin following Him. Notice the invitations throughout the passage: **"Come and you'll see"** and **"Follow me."** What stands out to me?

What does this show me about Jesus?

How do people respond when they encounter Jesus?

What is Jesus teaching me about following Him?

TODAY'S RESPONSE: Jesus, today I will follow you by...

DAY 2 – JOHN 3:1-21 Nicodemus - You must be born again

Nicodemus knew religion, Scripture, and theology, but Jesus told him he needed something only God could give: **new life**.

What stands out to me?

What does Jesus teach about being born again?

What does this passage teach me about God's love?

What is Jesus teaching me about following Him?

THINK ABOUT IT: Am I depending on what Jesus has done for me, or am I trying to prove myself to God through what I do?

DAY 3 – JOHN 4:1-42 The Samaritan Woman - Come see a man

Jesus intentionally engages someone others would have overlooked. Her encounter with Jesus changes her, and then she tells others about Him. What stands out to me about the way Jesus treats this woman?

What does this show me about Jesus?

What changes after she encounters Jesus?

What is Jesus teaching me about following Him?

TODAY'S RESPONSE: Who is one person in my life who needs to encounter Jesus? Pray for that person by name today.

DAY 4 – JOHN 9 The man born blind - I once was blind

Jesus changes this man's life, but not everyone celebrates what happened. Notice how the man's understanding of Jesus develops throughout the chapter.

What stands out to me?

How does the man describe Jesus at different points of the story?

How does he respond when others challenge him?

What is Jesus teaching me about following Him?

THINK ABOUT IT: Could I explain simply what Jesus has done in my life?

My story in one or two sentences:

DAY 5 — JOHN 11:17-44 Lazarus - When Jesus doesn't move on my timeline

Martha and Mary are grieving. Jesus could have arrived earlier—but He didn't. Listen carefully to what Jesus says and notice how He responds to their grief.

What stands out to me?

What does this passage reveal about Jesus' compassion?

What does Jesus reveal about His identity and power?

What is Jesus teaching me about following Him when I don't understand His timing?

TODAY'S RESPONSE: What situation do I need to trust Jesus with right now?

Jesus, I trust You with:

Thomas struggles to believe what the other disciples tell him. But notice how Jesus responds when Thomas encounters Him. What stands out to me?

But notice how Jesus responds when Thomas encounters Him.

What stands out to me?

What does Thomas eventually confess about Jesus?

What does this teach me about bringing my questions to Jesus?

What is Jesus teaching me about following Him?

One question I still have...

Don't be afraid of questions. Write one down and bring it to Re-Fuel.

DAY 7 — JOHN 21:15-22 - Peter - Follow me... again

Return to the conversation we studied at ReFuel.

Peter denied Jesus three times.

Now Jesus asks Peter three times about his love and repeatedly entrusts Peter with caring for His people.

Pay special attention to Peter's answers:

"You know..."

"You know..."

"You know everything..."

What stands out to me as I read this passage again?

How is Peter different from the confident Peter we saw before the crucifixion?

What does Jesus' treatment of Peter teach me about grace?

What does Jesus' command to "Feed my sheep" teach me about restoration and purpose?

Why do you think Jesus ends this conversation by telling Peter again, "Follow me."?

MY CHARCOAL FIRE

Peter's failure happened beside a charcoal fire. Jesus met Peter again beside a charcoal fire, not to destroy him with shame, but to restore him.

Is there a failure from my past that Jesus has forgiven but I am still allowing to define me?

What would it look like for me to receive Christ's grace and move forward?

LOOKING BACK OVER THE WEEK

You've spent seven days revisiting seven very different people.

The first disciples – invited.

Nicodemus – searching.

The Samaritan woman – known and transformed.

The blind man – changed and challenged.

Martha and Mary – grieving.

Thomas – questioning.

Peter – failing and restored.

Their stories were different. But they all encountered the same Jesus.

Now think about **your story**.

What have I learned about Jesus?

What have I learned about myself?

Where is Jesus asking me to trust Him?

Where is Jesus asking me to obey Him?

What may need to change in my life?

Who can I help take a step toward Jesus?

THE QUESTION THAT MATTERS

We started our Re-Fuel journey with Jesus' invitation:

"FOLLOW ME."

We walked through all 21 chapters of John. We saw His miracles. We heard His teaching. We watched Him love people others rejected. We saw Him wash feet. We stood at the cross. We discovered the empty tomb. We watched Him restore Peter. And after all of it, Jesus' invitation remains:

"AS FOR YOU, FOLLOW ME."

Not: follow everyone else's journey. Not: pretend you've never failed. Not: get everything figured out first. Simply: **FOLLOW JESUS.**

So finish this week's challenge by answering one :

WHAT'S MY NEXT STEP IN FOLLOWING JESUS?

MY PRAYER

Jesus, You know me completely. You know my strengths, my weaknesses, my questions, my failures, and my heart. Thank You for Your grace. Help me stop looking backward at what You have forgiven and sideways at everyone else's journey. Give me the courage to keep my eyes on You and follow wherever You lead. Amen.

BRING THIS GUIDE BACK NEXT WEDNESDAY.

Come ready to share: Something Jesus showed you. Something that challenged you. A question you're still wrestling with. A next step you're ready to take.

Re-Fuel: Get Filled. Grow Deeper. Live Stronger.



NEW HOPE
CHURCH