Next Steps: Faith That Keeps Moving
20-minute small-group lesson

Purpose: Help each person see that following Jesus involves ongoing steps of trust and obedience—not to earn God's love, but in response to the grace they have received.

Key Scriptures: Matthew 4:19; Psalm 119:105; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26; Romans 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:6–7

1. Set the Scene — 3 minutes

Leader says:
"Today we're talking about next steps in following Jesus. Our church is celebrating communion, water baptism, and baby dedication. These are different moments, but each one points us toward a life of faith, obedience, and spiritual growth. We don't take steps to earn God's love—we take them because He has loved us first."

Opening question:
"What is something you learned to do one step at a time—a skill, a job, or a responsibility?"

Allow a few people to answer.

2. Read and Discuss — 12 minutes

Read Matthew 4:19 and Psalm 119:105.

Jesus invited His disciples to follow Him. He didn't show them every detail of the road ahead; He called them to walk with Him and respond as He led.

Discussion questions:
- What might it look like to follow Jesus one step at a time in everyday life?
- Why can it be difficult to take a step when we don't know exactly what will happen next?
- What helps you recognize the next step God may be asking you to take?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23–26.

Communion directs our attention to Jesus' sacrifice and the hope we have in Him. It is a time to remember His grace and respond with gratitude and faith.

Discussion questions:
- What does communion help us remember about Jesus?
- How can remembering His grace shape the way we live this week?

Read Romans 6:4.

Baptism is a public declaration that a believer identifies with Jesus—His death, burial, and resurrection—and intends to walk in newness of life. Baptism does not earn salvation; it expresses faith in Jesus.

Discussion questions:
- What does baptism communicate about a person's faith?
- What might keep someone from taking the step of baptism after trusting Jesus?

Read Deuteronomy 6:6–7.

This passage calls God's people to teach His words to the next generation. Baby dedication reflects a commitment by parents and the church to pray for children, teach them about God, and model faith for them.

Discussion question:
- What are practical ways adults can help children see and learn what following Jesus looks like?

3. Walk It Out — 5 minutes

Invite everyone to reflect quietly for a moment.

Leader says:
"Think about your own walk with Jesus. What is one next step you sense you need to take? It might be trusting Jesus, being baptized, returning to prayer, making something right, serving, or asking someone to support you in your faith."

Invite participants to share if they feel comfortable. Encourage them to be specific and to name one action they can take this week.

Closing prayer:
"Jesus, thank You for loving us and giving Your life for us. Help us remember Your grace and follow You with courage. Show each of us the next step You are calling us to take. Strengthen those preparing for baptism, bless the children and families we dedicate, and help our church live as an example of faith for the next generation. Amen."