

ON PURPOSE FOLLOWING JESUS

*Aim: To challenge our church to follow
Jesus wherever he may lead us.*

Open: *Have you ever gotten into trouble because you were following someone else's example? Have you ever received a blessing because you were following someone's example?*

Read Matt 4:18-20; 8:18-22; 9:9; John 21:15-19

- What's the common theme in each of these verses?
- What was Jesus calling each of these individuals to?
- What kind of lifestyle is he calling them to?
- Why does he tell them at one point, "Follow me and let the dead bury their own dead"? Does this seem harsh to you?
- Describe 'discipleship'... as if you're explaining it to a child.
- From the discussion in John 21, what would you say ought to be our motivation to following Jesus?
- What does God use to shape us into the character of Christ?

Discuss

- What makes following Jesus tough?
- What's the most difficult thing about 'following Jesus' for you?
- Has Jesus ever led you to do something that was difficult for you? That was challenging? How did it go?
- Jim mentioned some common misconceptions about Christianity in the lesson this morning... can you think of others?
- What sorts of things do you do in order to help yourself become more like Jesus?
- What can we as a church do in order to be more like Jesus this year?
(Brainstorm ideas as to how we can help folks in this area of discipleship)

Pray

How can our group pray for YOU tonight?