

A WINNING FAITH: FAN OR FOLLOWER?

Use this guide for personal or small group study.

REFLECT >>>

1. Practically speaking, what has been your biggest priority in life?
2. What currently gets most of your time, attention, or passion?
3. Looking back over the years, have there been seasons when you were most committed to your walk with God? Describe one.

READ YOUR BIBLE >>>

- John 6:61-69
- Philippians 2:1-11

APPLY GOD'S WORD TO YOUR LIFE >>>

1. In Philippians 2:1-11, Paul describes what it's like to think like Jesus. Compare/contrast this type of thinking to your own lately.
2. Describe what it might look like to be a fan of Jesus, but not truly follow Him.
3. What efforts and sacrifices might be required of us if we follow Jesus? Be specific.
4. Many people left Jesus because of His "hard teachings" (John 6:60)? What commands or teachings of Jesus do you need help accepting?

At various points when things get difficult, people turn back from following Jesus. Some walk away because of money, some because of pride, some because of family commitments, and others because they did not like Jesus' teachings. Again, and again, when He calls people to "follow" Him, He calls for a transformation in the way we think and live (Philippians 2:1-11). This was and still is a great challenge! Once, He turned to ask His closest followers if they wanted to stop following Him. Peter responded with conviction, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68) What a heavenly perspective! Though he failed (more than once) in this commitment, Peter followed Jesus and led many others to a saving relationship with Him. How would you describe your heart right now? Are you committed to following Jesus? Or, do you feel like more of a fair-weather fan?

PRAY >>>

Lord Jesus, all things are rightfully Yours, and You deserve all the glory. Yet, we often care more about ourselves than about You or about those around us. When You came to save us, You lived a life of sacrifice. You lived for us, died our death, and rose again to give us life. Thank You, Jesus. Now, can You give me that kind of heart and mind? Can You breathe Your Holy Spirit in me, to live a life of purpose and acts of service? I don't want to be just a fair-weather fan! I want to trust Your word and follow Your lead. Lord Jesus, lead on. Amen.