

Toolbox

Week 1 – September 13
Scripture: Matthew 4:18-22

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Look up the verses below and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: Would you rather go on a vacation that is meticulously planned out or one that is spontaneous and organized moment to moment?

Read Matthew 4:18-22 together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Discuss the following context:

In Matthew 4:18-22 Jesus calls His first disciples. Jesus invitation to follow Him is not determined by status, past or present circumstance. Jesus sees the potential and possibility of every human and invites us, not because of what we have done, but because of WHO He is. Following Jesus is an act of faithfulness.

Jesus invites us to follow Him on what can feel like an organized and organic journey. Often times we don't know where to start, what tools we have or what skills we need. Jesus teaches His disciples to follow first, learn along the way, and fill a toolbox with tools to be used over and over again. One important tool for our toolbox is this: *God's presence can expand our perspective when we accept His invitation to follow Him.* Following Jesus builds faith.

Share your thoughts about the following questions:

1. Jesus led in a variety of ways including **organized** (systematic approach – Jesus did this when He taught the disciples to pray), **organic** (no system, go with the flow – Jesus did this in moment by moment interactions with the people), and **catalytic** (these moments became invitations to follow, invitation to grow, invitation to a deeper, fuller life with Him). Catalytic moments have a momentum that we experience, discover, and move with power. What style do you prefer? Why did Jesus use all three styles?
2. Following Jesus is clinging to the truth that we don't have it all together and we are invited into the *journey* of following Him. What is the danger in *arriving* at the destination before going on the journey? Why is faithfulness an important part of the journey?
3. Following Jesus builds faith because it is about God's presence and it places us in a posture of possibility. What is one area of your life that Jesus is inviting you to follow Him?

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Thank God for the invitation to follow Him and opportunity to build your faith every day. Ask Him to reveal the journey He has for specifically for you. Pray and listen to what God has to say about these questions. How do I respond? Do I have the tools I need?