



EASTER: The Invitation

Pastor Derek

April 5, 2026

Life Group Discussion

CONNECT: *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

- Share about a time someone invited you to go somewhere or do something new – and the experience had a lasting impact on you.

GROW: *Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

Questions:

- Read [Matthew 9:9-13](#) and [Luke 9:23](#).
 - o What criteria did Jesus use when inviting people to follow him? Why were the Pharisees so upset by this? When/how has Jesus' 'anyone is welcome' approach challenged *you*?
 - o How do you think 'many tax collectors and sinners' came to be at the table? What role might Matthew have played in this?
 - o Following Jesus requires daily decisions of obedience. If Jesus held out His hand to you right now, in this specific season of your life with all its joys and complications, and said "Follow Me," how would you respond? What barriers come to mind? What would be hard to leave behind? What excuses might you be tempted to make?
- Read [Colossians 1:9-14](#), [2 Corinthians 3:4-6](#) and [Ephesians 2:8-10](#)
 - o Consider the three different perspectives presented in the Colossians passage: 'We,' the established disciples of Jesus (Paul and Timothy); 'You,' the new believers, (Colossian church); Him/His, God the Father. What are the characteristics and roles of each? How are they different? How are they related? Which do you most identify with right now?
 - o How have you 'disqualified' yourself from life and ministry with Jesus in the past?
 - o Based on these passages, what qualifies a believer to participate in the kingdom of God? How can this understanding change your personal perspective moving forward? How can it change your interactions with those who don't yet follow Jesus?

Tool/Practice: **Compassionate Storyteller.** Think about the ways that God is showing up in your story this week. Who can learn a bit about God's story by you sharing about these experiences?

GO: *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*



- **What is God saying to you?** Ask Him to reveal any area of your life that you need to follow Him more closely.
- **What are you going to do about it?** Take time in the next few days to write down your response to Jesus' invitation. What are you leaving behind? What are you walking toward? "I will..."



FOLLOW ME: Week 1

Pastor Derek

April 12, 2026

Life Group Discussion

CONNECT: *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

- How was your Easter? What was a high and a low?
- Describe your experience (or lack thereof) with finding your chair with Jesus. What are the challenges? What has been a benefit?

GROW: *Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

Questions:

- What stuck out to you about the two different people from the sermon (see [John 3:1-3](#) and [Luke 7:44-47](#))? Do you identify more with Nicodemus or the Woman? Why?
- Let's look at another story: Read [Luke 10: 38-42](#).
 - o Describe the two types of people described in this passage.
 - o Which one do you most identify with? Why?
- Read [Psalm 46:10](#), [John 15:4-5](#), [James 4:7-8](#).
 - o What do these verses tell us about "taking a seat"?
 - o How will our life be changed by time with Jesus?

Tool/Practice: Let's use our time together to practice the "micro-skills" from the sermon.

- Part 1: Find your Chair for 5 minutes. Read [Psalm 139](#) individually for 5 minutes (set a timer). Write down on a notecard whatever sticks out to you.
- Part 2: Practice PRAY tool.
 - o **PRAISE:** *Acknowledge who God is.* Pray one sentence prayers praising God for who He is, "God, you are...".
 - o **REPENT:** *Come honestly about what needs to change.* Take a few minutes of silence to write down things that need to change in your life to follow Jesus more closely.
 - o **ASK:** *Bring your needs as a dependent child.* Go in order around the circle. Each person should pray out loud for themselves and any requests they have. If someone is not comfortable praying out loud, give a moment of silence and all pray quietly for that person.



- **YIELD:** *Surrender your agenda. Listen for His.* Sit with your hands palms up and open. All sit silently for 3 minutes (set a timer). Let thoughts wander in and out of your mind. When a distracting thought slips in, something that pulls you away from God, turn your palms down. You're releasing it. Then turn your palms back up as a posture of receiving. You're saying, "God, I'm open. Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening."
- As you wrap up, take a moment to debrief together. How was this PRAY experience for you? What was challenging? What was refreshing?

GO: *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*

- What is God saying to you? Where do you want to go from here? Which "micro-skill" will you practice until our next meeting?
- What are you going to do about it?
"I will..."



FOLLOW ME: Week 2

Pastor Derek

April 19, 2026

Life Group Discussion

CONNECT: *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

- Share about a time when you (or someone else you know) obeyed Jesus even though it cost something. What was the impact of that obedience?

GROW: *Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

Questions:

- In [Luke 9:57-58](#) Jesus challenged three people who said they wanted to follow Him but weren't willing to go "all in". What situations in our modern society would parallel the roadblocks to complete obedience these people experienced?
- [John 6:66-68](#) shows Jesus asking this hard question of His disciples after many of His followers left, "Do you want to go away as well?" How did Peter's honest response show he understood Jesus was enough?
- Holocaust survivor Corrie ten Boom wrote, "You'll never know Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have." How have you proved this true in your life or seen it exhibited in the life of another?
- In [John 19:38-42](#) we see Nicodemus boldly showing his allegiance to Jesus. What do you think caused him to be so bold at this point? How is Jesus calling you to be a more "all in" and bold follower?

Tool/Practice: A Savvy Follower needs to learn to discern God's voice. Practice together using the [Discern God's Voice Tool](#);

- First SLOW DOWN. Take several minutes right now to be still and use focused meditation or breathing prayers to settle your mind and heart.
- Next, just as you LOOK & LISTEN at a crossroads, take time to ask God what He wants you to see? To hear? To feel? Right now.
- When you think you sense what God might be saying to you, share with the group, if you are willing, to seek confirmation on what God is telling you.

GO: *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*



- Now that you have heard from God, what are you going to do about it?
"I will..."
- Continue practicing this skill throughout the week.