

# How To Grow as a Believer & Follower of Jesus

Wednesday Nights at 6:30 pm

Begins August 2



## Class 3, Wednesday, August 23

**NOTE:** A bird built a nest on Pastor Jack's door, laid eggs, and fed the babies. We enjoyed watching the process. They are now full grown!

### Class Introduction & Guidelines

**We meet (for now) in Building D!** (Remember Mark Twain, "There's nothing more permanent than a temporary arrangement!")

**Format:** This is an interactive class more than a sermon. Participate!

**Videos are online** in our class section if you miss a class.

### Tonight's Bible Passage – John 14

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (14:10)*

*I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. (14:14)*

*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. (14:27)*

### Step One – Honest Evaluation (Review)

Step one of growth is personal evaluation, specifically of your weak spots? What sins, attitudes, beliefs, and bad practices need to go? What is holding you back from growing? How do you grade yourself?

If we want to grow, we can't grade ourselves on a curve and compare ourselves to others. We must compare ourselves to Jesus. And then we can get help from others.

If we're willing to tolerate our bad actions or attitudes, we won't grow. How many roaches are we willing to have in our milkshakes?

### Step Two – Learning to Listen to and Follow Jesus!

I want to "demystify" spiritual growth. It's not complicated. Spiritual growth is learning to follow Jesus more perfectly. It's like a child's game of *Follow-the leader*. The rules are simple, and the game gets easier as skills increase. *Babies can't follow a running adult until they learn to crawl, walk, and then run—but they understand the concept.*

In the child's game, we can see the leader. In Christianity, we can't see Jesus. So to be a disciple, we have to learn to "listen" and then "understand" the voice of Jesus. Knowing what the leader is doing and what the leader wants us to do comes first.

Today, there are many voices telling us what to do and how to live: Philosophers, celebrities, teachers, politicians, influencers, authors, scientists, parents, friends, pastors, churches, movies, books, and magazines. The internet and mass communication bring these voices into our lives more often and more loudly than ever! There can be good in this; there is also serious danger. And only those who listen to and here the voice of Jesus can discern what is good and true.

So we are to listen to the voice of Jesus. And then do what He says. Our growth is dependent on those two things. In essence, that is what a disciple is. And the command that Jesus gave most to his potential disciples was, "Follow Me."

So, tonight, we are going to play "follow-the-leader," with a twist!

### How Do We Recognize Jesus' Voice?

1. E \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. L \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. W \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. P \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. S \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ .
7. S \_\_\_\_\_ .
8. B \_\_\_\_\_ .

# How To Grow as a Believer & Follower of Jesus

Wednesday Nights at 6:30 pm

Begins August 2



## Class 3, Wednesday, August 23

**NOTE:** A bird built a nest on Pastor Jack's door, laid eggs, and fed the babies. We enjoyed watching the process. They are now full grown!

### Class Introduction & Guidelines

**We meet (for now) in Building D!** (Remember Mark Twain, "There's nothing more permanent than a temporary arrangement!")

**Format:** This is an interactive class more than a sermon. Participate!

**Videos are online** in our class section if you miss a class.

### Tonight's Bible Passage – John 14

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (14:10)*

*I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. (14:14)*

*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. (14:27)*

### Step One – Honest Evaluation (Review)

Step one of growth is personal evaluation, specifically of your weak spots? What sins, attitudes, beliefs, and bad practices need to go? What is holding you back from growing? How do you grade yourself?

If we want to grow, we can't grade ourselves on a curve and compare ourselves to others. We must compare ourselves to Jesus. And then we can get help from others.

If we're willing to tolerate our bad actions or attitudes, we won't grow. How many roaches are we willing to have in our milkshakes?

### Step Two – Learning to Listen to and Follow Jesus!

I want to "demystify" spiritual growth. It's not complicated. Spiritual growth is learning to follow Jesus more perfectly. It's like a child's game of *Follow-the leader*. The rules are simple, and the game gets easier as skills increase. *Babies can't follow a running adult until they learn to crawl, walk, and then run—but they understand the concept.*

In the child's game, we can see the leader. In Christianity, we can't see Jesus. So to be a disciple, we have to learn to "listen" and then "understand" the voice of Jesus. Knowing what the leader is doing and what the leader wants us to do comes first.

Today, there are many voices telling us what to do and how to live: Philosophers, celebrities, teachers, politicians, influencers, authors, scientists, parents, friends, pastors, churches, movies, books, and magazines. The internet and mass communication bring these voices into our lives more often and more loudly than ever! There can be good in this; there is also serious danger. And only those who listen to and here the voice of Jesus can discern what is good and true.

So we are to listen to the voice of Jesus. And then do what He says. Our growth is dependent on those two things. In essence, that is what a disciple is. And the command that Jesus gave most to his potential disciples was, "Follow Me."

So, tonight, we are going to play "follow-the-leader," with a twist!

### How Do We Recognize Jesus' Voice?

1. E \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. L \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. W \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. P \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. S \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ .
7. S \_\_\_\_\_ .
8. B \_\_\_\_\_ .