

# Journey CHURCH

*Pastor James Greer*

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## Christian – Session 1 Brand Recognition

### Discussion Questions:

1. What major differences among Christians do you find hard to understand or explain?
2. What does the word “disciple” bring to your mind? What have you learned about the meaning of this word according to the New Testament?
3. In what ways have you looked to Jesus as a model and standard for major decisions in your life?
4. How comfortable are you thinking of yourself as a “disciple” of Jesus? Have you ever thought of yourself this way? What does being a “disciple” mean to you?
5. Why do you think Jesus puts so much emphasis on love as the distinguishing characteristic of His disciples?

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6. In general, do you think the followers of Jesus in your community think of themselves as “Christians” or “disciples”? What difference do you see this making?

## **Mileposts:**

- The word “Christian” can mean anything we want it to because it’s never clearly defined in Scripture. Originally, it was a derogatory term that outsiders used for followers of Jesus.
- The New Testament emphasizes a different word for those who follow Jesus: *disciples*. It’s a disturbing and challenging term because it’s so clearly defined.
- Jesus tells his disciples that love for one another is to be our distinguishing characteristic, our defining mark that attracts outsiders to Him.

## **Changing Your Mind:**

This session’s key Scripture passage is a reminder of the highest calling and the distinguishing characteristic that Jesus has given all who follow Him:

*A new command I give you: Love one another.  
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.  
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,  
if you love one another.  
John 13:34-35*

## **Preparation for Session 2:**

To help you prepare for Session 2, use these suggested devotions during the week leading up to your small group meeting.

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## **Day 1**

Read the words of Jesus in John 13:34-35. Express as fully as possible, in your own words, all that Jesus is teaching here.

## **Day 2**

Turn to the book of 1 John toward the back of the New Testament. Concentrate today on verses 7 & 8 in chapter 4. How do these two verses reinforce what Jesus stated in John 13:34-35?

## **Day 3**

Focus today on 1 John 4:9. Again, in what specific ways does this verse reinforce the words of Jesus in John 13:34-35?

## **Day 4**

Reflect today on 1 John 4:10. As you do, what particular links do you see with the words of Jesus in John 13:34-35?

## **Day 5**

Concentrate today 1 John 4:11. Once more, in what specific ways do you see this verse reinforcing the words of Jesus in John 13:34-35?