

Love Does Session 5: Leader Guide

FOLLOW ME

Jesus says let's go and do stuff and we'll find out who I am and who you are, along the way.
- Love Does video

INTRODUCTION

Once upon a time there were two pilgrims going on a road trip with some friends. Pilgrim A was the kind of person who wanted to have every gas, food, and potty-stop mapped out ahead of time. When selecting routes, Pilgrim A always picked the most direct one (so that they would arrive at their destination on schedule), and any sightseeing needed to be planned in advance (nothing spontaneous).

Pilgrim B, however, was happy to just go with the flow. It didn't matter to her when and where the group stopped, ate, or arrived, nor did she care what route they took. And if some inter-esting attraction came up along the way, Pilgrim B would gladly detour the whole caravan to see it.

When Jesus invites us to follow Him, He doesn't tell us every step of the journey ahead. There are adventures and discoveries awaiting us that we could never anticipate. However, that doesn't mean Jesus' disciples should never make a plan. In fact, when we read the Gospels, it seems like Jesus is looking for disciples who start with the passion of Pilgrim B and then adopt the practicality of Pilgrim A. He is looking for people with enough enthusiasm to abandon their vocations to follow Him, yet He expects those disciples to mature into women and men who can be intentional about bringing God's kingdom here and now. And as the Gospel stories progress, we start to see why. Jesus' intention isn't to stick around, His plan is to leave and turn everything over to His disciples with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to show them the next steps.

The final session of Love Does will explore how to bring our passions and plans together. Do you know folks who have inte-grated planning into their praying? What did that look like? Fur-thermore, what, if anything, do you think God might be calling you to

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make a plan about? Consider all of this as we conclude our Love Does journey, and be listening for where the Spirit may be nudging you next.

CHECKING IN

As you begin, go around the group and answer this question:

Which of the world's problems makes you feel the most over-whelmed because it is so big and complicated?

HEARING THE WORD

Read the following Scripture passages aloud in the group. If possible, have a different reader for each passage. Then answer the questions that follow.

Matthew 4:18-20 - 18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." 20 At once they left their nets and followed him.

Matthew 16:24 - Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Luke 18:18-22 - 18 A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 19 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered, "No one is good-except God alone. 20 You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'" 21 "All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said. 22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Name two or three things these passages have in common.

In each case, following Jesus means leaving one thing behind for something better. What do you imagine Jesus is asking you to leave behind in order to better follow Him today?

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WATCH THE VIDEO

Watch the Session 5 video clip, using the space below to take notes. When the video ends, take a moment to reflect on one or two things that you learned, disagreed with, or were surprised by.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1) Before everyone shares in the large group, turn to one or two people next to you and finish this sentence, "After watching the video, one question I now have is..."
- 2) Bob says that Jesus loves justice. What is justice? What does God's justice look like?
- 3) In the video, Bob challenges us to consider making a difference for God. A big difference, not a small difference! How does this challenge to dream big affect you? Is it invigorating or intimidating, or a little of both? Explain.
- 4) Bob asks, "What if we're the ones who aren't efficient with our love?" What do you think he means by this question? Are you too efficient with your love? Not efficient enough?
- 5) What's the difference between waving at Jesus and following Him? Is there an area of your life where it's easier to wave to Him than to follow? Why do you think that's the case, and what might you do to change?