

Following Jesus 101

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | Acts 9:19b–31

1. Have you or any of your friends ever experienced a radical conversion to Christ? What happened? What kinds of changes were made in your or their life as a result of a commitment to follow Jesus?

2. If you have been a part of a church service that has had an altar call, what did you think about it when it happened? What are the strengths and weaknesses of inviting people to “walk the aisle” in order to demonstrate their belief? If someone responds to an altar call, but their lives don’t change after they “walk the aisle”, are they genuine Christians? Why or why not?

3. What kinds of things are new Christians expected to turn away from as a result of their commitment to Christ? What can fellow Christians do to help new believers to make that transition?

4. How important are friends to following Jesus? Describe some times in your life when your friends were a great support to you in your faith. Describe some times that your friends were not a great support.

5. What does it look like to be a friend who encourages other believers to continue in the faith? When should we be affirming our fellow Christians and when should we be warning them? If we are warning, what’s the best way to do that so you get a hearing? Do you have any examples you’ve seen of this in your own life or in the lives of those around you?

6. What situations are you currently facing that feel like a crisis from which you need to be delivered? How can others pray for you to God so that he will bring peace and reprieve to you in that situation? How does 1 Peter 5:6-11 encourage you to hope?

Passages Cited in Sermon... Acts 9:19b-31. Mark 1:16-20. Acts 19:18-19. Galatians 1:15-18. Acts 4:34-37. Acts 15:36-40. Hebrews 10:23-25. 1 Peter 5:6-11