



# Follow

JOURNAL

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KEY DATES

January 12, 2025 — North Shore Vision Gathering

January 19, 2025 — Elgin Vision Gathering

January 22, 2025 — Elgin Vision Gathering

January 25-26, 2025 — Follow Teaching Series Launches

January 26, 2025 — Crystal Lake Vision Gathering

February 2, 2025 — Rolling Meadows Vision Gathering

February 5, 2025 — Rolling Meadows Vision Gathering

February 8-9, 2025 — Compassion Weekend

February 9, 2025 — Aurora Vision Gathering

February 16, 2025 — Chicago Cathedral Vision Gathering

February 23, 2025 — Leadership Dinner

March 1-2, 2025 — Commitment Weekend

March 1-2, 2025 — Follow Teaching Series Concludes

March 15-16, 2025 — Celebration Weekend

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# History of Harvest

From 1988 to Today

Harvest Bible Chapel began in 1988 with eighteen believers who envisioned a church firmly rooted in Christ and built on the Four Pillars—Unapologetic Preaching, Unashamed Adoration, Unceasing Prayer, and Unafraid Witness. Their faith-filled journey started at Rolling Meadows High School with 207 attendees, and it soon expanded to multiple campuses across Chicagoland, all united in glorifying Christ and making disciples.



In 1995, Harvest established its first permanent location at Rolling Meadows, made possible by the sacrificial generosity of its growing congregation. Over the years, the church continued to flourish, launching campuses in Elgin, Crystal Lake, Chicago Cathedral, Aurora, and on the North Shore, each becoming a hub of worship and impactful ministry. Initiatives such as Harvest Christian Academy have further deepened its reach, fostering spiritual growth among children, students, and families.

Beyond its physical campuses, Harvest has embraced a global mission, planting over 190 churches worldwide and launching creative ministries like Vertical Worship to spread the gospel. Now, through the Follow Initiative, you are invited to join this extraordinary journey of faith—partnering to advance God's kingdom locally and globally. Together, we can impact generations for Christ.

# Follow Initiative

## A Journey of Discipleship and Transformation

**THE FOLLOW INITIATIVE** is **MORE** than a capital campaign; it's a renewed call to follow Jesus with purpose and impact. We believe that following Jesus means being a disciple who goes where He leads, reaching out to those around us, growing deeper in faith, and living out His mission in tangible ways. Through this initiative, we're inviting you to join us in an all-in commitment to discipleship—one that impacts our lives, our church, and our city.

### WHY FOLLOW?

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."

Luke 9:23–27

In a rapidly changing world, the church has the opportunity to respond with the unchanging message of Jesus. Cities change, needs shift, and people search for hope and purpose. As followers of Jesus, we're called to meet those needs by being adaptable yet steadfast, creating spaces and resources that help people truly meet and follow Him.

Our Vision:

# Build Up, Send Out, Pay Down

**IN THE FOLLOW INITIATIVE, WE'RE  
ALIGNING OUR LIVES AND RESOURCES  
TO LIVE AS DISCIPLES.**

**TOGETHER, WE WILL:**

**FOLLOW JESUS** individually and as a church family. We're committing to grow in our faith and deepen our walk with Christ. It's a personal journey and a shared calling that anchors everything we do.

**BUILD UP** our church by improving inviting spaces across our campuses for worship, community, hospitality, and spiritual growth, where people can experience God's presence and power in their lives.

**SEND OUT** into the world, partnering with Compassion International, The Chicago Partnership, and planting new church locations, bringing hope and the message of Jesus to our city and beyond.

**PAY DOWN** debt to release resources for our mission, freeing us to follow wherever God calls.



## Join us in following Jesus

The Follow Initiative is about embracing the calling to be disciples who make disciples.

Attend a Vision Gathering to hear how we're refocusing ministry in this season and how you can be a part of transforming lives for God's glory.

We're stepping forward, committed to Chicago and the world, Following Jesus wherever He leads and stepping forward with a commitment to reach Chicago and the world

Together, let's build a resilient church for a resilient city. We're following Jesus, embracing our mission, and going all in.



**WILL  
YOU  
JOIN  
US?**



# Follow Initiative Goals

Join us in making a lasting impact

At Harvest Bible Chapel, we believe God is calling us to boldly invest in the future of His work in post-Christian Chicagoland through our ministry.

The Follow Initiative capital campaign will focus on three key areas—Build Up, Send Out, and Pay Down—designed to enhance our mission of making disciples and reaching the world with the gospel.

# Build Up

33% | \$4 Million

Our facilities play a critical role in fostering connection and ministry effectiveness. To ensure they reflect a welcoming and forward-thinking environment, we will:

- Refresh hospitality areas to create spaces that are warm, current, and inviting.
- Upgrade technology and the overall look and feel to engage our culture effectively.
- Invest in next-generation spaces for families, students, and young adults to inspire spiritual growth and connection.

These updates will ensure our buildings meet the needs of today and are prepared for tomorrow.

# Send Out

17% | \$2 Million

Our mission is to send more people equipped to make more and better disciples and church leaders.

This initiative will:

- Expand training programs, like Harvest Deploy and new residency opportunities as we build a “farm team” and raise up more church leaders.
- Strengthen our apprentice program and create a deeper bench for church leadership.
- Plant two new local church campuses in Chicagoland.
- Support Harvest Christian Academy in moving toward the next milestone of greater independence, enabling our mission to reach the community more broadly and disciple the next generation.
- Grow our partnerships with organizations like The Chicago Partnership, SEND (NAMB), Compassion International, and other local and global kingdom partners.

# Pay Down

50% | \$6 Million

Reducing our current debt is vital for our church’s financial health and future ministry growth. A \$6 million reduction will free up approximately \$1 million annually by lowering our debt payments, allowing us to invest more resources into making disciples and advancing the gospel worldwide.

**THE FOLLOW INITIATIVE** is more than a financial initiative—it’s a kingdom-focused vision. By investing in these three areas, we will strengthen our ability to connect with people, send out equipped disciples, and steward our resources wisely for God’s glory. Together, we can position Harvest Bible Chapel to impact lives and communities for generations to come.

Let’s build for the future—  
together **FOR HIS GLORY.**





## What's Ahead

The next eighty pages are designed to guide you through our six-week series: Follow. Whether you're reflecting on your own or engaging with others, we invite you to grow, be inspired, and deepen your relationship with Jesus.

Let this be a time to pause, reflect, and discover what it means to follow Christ together.





Follow Series

# Week One

January 18–25, 2025





## Memory Verse

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

Luke 9:23-24

## Prayer Prompts

Luke 9:23-27 + Luke 14

**SUNDAY:** Father God, grant us the discipline to continually place the needs of others ahead of our own. Keep us mindful of always displaying Christian exaltation above secular adoration.

**MONDAY:** Father God, grant us the discipline and humility to forsake all that we have in this world in order to follow You each day of our earthly lives.

**TUESDAY:** Heavenly Father, allow us to see clearly the plan and purpose You have divinely designed for Your Church. And help us to remain steadfast in our faith.

**WEDNESDAY:** Father God, may we live our lives in a sacrificial manner, never failing to count the cost.

**THURSDAY:** Dear God, please open our eyes to the ever-present magnitude of Your glory. Help us to live each day in a posture of generosity in our worship and our giving.

**FRIDAY:** Father God, may we obediently place You and Your will before and beyond our own. Guide us along the path of humility and praise.

**SATURDAY:** Heavenly Father, give us the strength to withstand the weight of our daily sacrifice. Help us bear the responsibility of being willing servants.

# Devotional

Luke 9:23-27  
Moses Chun

## RULE FOLLOWER OR RULE BREAKER?

Are you a rule follower or rule breaker? When you get a piece of furniture to build, do you often ignore the instruction manual, or are you an instruction manual all the way type of person? I used to break the rules a lot until I realized I'm being prideful by thinking I know better than the creator of the product.

I love that in this passage Jesus gives us an instruction manual on how to be a disciple. Deny yourself. Take up the cross daily. Follow me. In a world that is full of self, Jesus asks us to deny ourselves. Why? Because He knows that we cannot serve two masters at once (Matt. 6:24). To take up our crosses daily simply means to surrender our lives to Him again and again. With these convictions in our hearts, we can follow Him for the long haul.

Why should we follow Him? Why does He give us these instructions? He knows that this world will often tell us that it's better to follow what we feel is best. But we know the Creator of the universe. He tells us that if we try to save our life, we will lose it. If we can gain the world, but don't have Jesus, what good is it for us? I'd much rather have Him than anything else in this world.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your instruction on following Jesus. We take a moment and confess our need for You: apart from You, we can do nothing. We want to follow You no matter the cost. We say “yes” to You and “no” to the world. Give us the strength to make a daily decision to take up our cross and follow You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

# Family Activity

From Harvest Kids

## READ

Read Luke 9:23-27 together.

## WATCH



Jesus calls his disciples



Dig into Luke 9:23

## ENGAGE

In the Gospels, we read about the first disciples Jesus called to follow Him. You may have thought that Jesus would call the smartest or the most popular, but He didn't. He called ordinary people like you and me. Following Jesus means living like He did. We're going to play a game to help us remember to follow our leader—Jesus.

Choose one family member to be the leader and begin with a motion for all of the others to imitate (ex. running in place, craziest dance moves). After ten seconds or so, do a new motion or move.

## DISCUSS

You can choose to eliminate those that don't follow the leader/keep up and then let the last child standing be the new leader. Or, place a time limit on each leader before choosing another child to lead.

When you've finished playing, explain to your children that Jesus wants us to imitate Him, just as we were imitating the different leaders in our game. He wants us to love others like He loves us, to serve others like He serves us, to be kind and patient with others like He is kind and patient with us. That will often mean that we live differently than the kids and grown-ups around us.

How do you think we, as disciples of Jesus, should be living differently from those that don't follow Jesus?

Do you think living differently is hard or even scary? Why or why not?

## MEMORIZE

Have kids create a poster with the Luke 9:23 written on it. Place it somewhere you will see it everyday to help your family memorize this verse.

## PRAY

Father, please help (child's name) to learn to turn from selfishness, take up their cross each day, and follow You. Please help them to see all that they gain by choosing a life centered on You, as well as all that You are calling them to cast off and pick up for Your glory.

# Student Devotional

**READ**

Read through Luke 9:23-27.

## WRITE

Write down five things people seek to “gain” in this world.

What do you think makes gaining Jesus worth losing all of those things?

Think about what would be hard for you to give up to follow Jesus.

## RESPOND

Ask God to show you how He is so much better than those things.



# Sermon Notes

Sermon Title:  
Pastor:  
January 25-26, 2025

Follow Series

# Week Two

January 26–February 1, 2025



## Memory Verse

And he said to his disciples,  
“Therefore I tell you, do not be  
anxious about your life, what  
you will eat, nor about your  
body, what you will put on.  
For life is more than food, and  
the body more than clothing.”

Luke 12:22-23

## Prayer Prompts

Luke 12:13-34

**SUNDAY:** Lord God, the riches of this world are a temptation. Help me focus on the things of eternal value.

**MONDAY:** Father God, give me the strength today to allow my focus to be more about You and less about me. Please grow my ability to be selfless and obedient in my faith.

**TUESDAY:** Father God, grant me the discernment to hold loosely the things of this world and grasp more firmly the things of Your kingdom.

**WEDNESDAY:** Lord God, help me not to complicate Your tender mercies but to live simply in Your loving grace.

**THURSDAY:** Lord God, allow me to lay my burdens at Your feet so that I may live each day in Your everlasting presence.

**FRIDAY:** Lord God, I’m humbled by all that You have made. The wonder and the majesty of Your creation shouts of Your glory.

**SATURDAY:** Heavenly Father, help me to remain grateful for Your provisions and faithful in Your providence.







# Family Activity

From Harvest Kids

## READ

Read Luke 12:13-21 together.

## WATCH



Journey Today Show 8.3

## ENGAGE

Grab paper and a pen, and tell your family that they are going to guess as many of your drawings as they can in two minutes.

Begin drawing items that your kids love/would really love to have (TV, ipad, bike, pet unicorn, video games, ice cream, etc.) until the two-minute timer is up.

## DISCUSS

Can your kids guess what all of these items have in common? (They are some pretty cool things that most kids would probably want to have.)

There's nothing wrong with having any of those things, but can you want to have something too strongly? Is it possible to have too much stuff?

What do you think Jesus was trying to tell people through this parable?

Why do you think the man stored up all of his stuff instead of giving some of it away?

Do we have anything stored up in our house that we could give to someone who needs it more?

What do you think it means to be "rich" in God's eyes?

God wants us to treasure our relationship with Him more than any of our possessions!

## MEMORIZE

Practice saying Matthew 6:21 in a variety of ways (whisper, shout, while hopping on one foot, in a robot voice, etc.).

## PRAY

Lord, please show us where we have been selfish, and forgive us. Please make generosity and grace hallmarks of our family so others may see You in us. May our generosity result in others giving thanks to You.

# Student Devotional

## READ

Read Luke 12:13-34.

Jesus is clearly showing us that our possessions in this world will not matter when we die. Therefore, we should focus on what matters, both now and in eternity.

## WRITE

What are the most valuable possessions you have?

Would you be willing to sell those things  
and give the money to those in need of it?

How do you think it could be good for you to give away possessions that you really care about?

## RESPOND

Ask God to show you where there is greed in your heart.

As you pray, think of something you could sell or give away to help someone else and ultimately help yourself.

# Sermon Notes

Sermon Title:  
Pastor:  
February 1-2, 2025



Follow Series

# Week Three

February 2–8, 2025





## Memory Verse

And Jesus said to him,  
“Today salvation has come to  
this house, since he also is a  
son of Abraham. For the Son  
of Man came to seek and to  
save the lost.”

Luke 19:9–10

## Prayer Prompts

Luke 19:1-10

**SUNDAY:** Father, make us a people known for our generosity.

**MONDAY:** Father, I pray that I would not be deterred in the way in which I seek after You. Remove all obstacles that would prevent me from abiding in a personal relationship with You.

**TUESDAY:** Father God, grant me the discernment not to judge others based upon reputation or appearance. Instead, teach me to see others through Your eyes.

**WEDNESDAY:** Evaluate my heart, O God, and reveal to me the areas where I have selfishly hoarded what You have so freely given.

**THURSDAY:** Father in Heaven, continually fill me with the spirit of generosity so that my giving comes from a posture of humility to meet Your kingdom’s needs.

**FRIDAY:** Lord, like Zacchaeus, teach me to celebrate You in the work which You have placed before me.

**SATURDAY:** Father God, create in me a burning desire to joyfully receive You each and every day.



# Devotional

Luke 19:1-10  
Stephanie Geisler

## SOUGHT AFTER

When I was younger, I remember getting lost in an amusement park. Searching high and low for my parents amongst the dense crowd, I felt hopeless. I kept crying out to no avail. Then, finally, the crowd broke through and there were my parents who had been looking for me everywhere. They ran and embraced me, and I immediately felt this sense of relief and gratitude. I was found. When you realize you are lost, you will do anything to find your way.

Zacchaeus was a Jewish tax collector, considered by the community around him to be a traitor and a thief. When Jesus passed through his town, Zacchaeus was desperate to meet Him, and so he did whatever it took to be found—even unceremoniously climbing a tree. But what Zacchaeus found was not only himself seeking Christ, but Christ seeking him out. Christ came into Zacchaeus’s home and granted him salvation, despite the grumbling of others because of Zacchaeus’s greed and reputation. Zacchaeus knew his sin and came to the end of himself, and he responded to Jesus’ forgiveness with joy and generosity.

## PRAYER

For us, we need to know our desperate need for Jesus. We can seek after many things, but nothing satisfies like Christ. Zacchaeus had financial success, but he still came up empty. When we recognize our need and earnestly seek after Jesus, we find that He has already been seeking after us, offering forgiveness and compassion. Our response should be radical joy, generosity, and servanthood. What joy to realize we are found by the One who has been seeking after us.

Holy Father, I praise You for who You are. You are the God who sees, who saves, and who loves Your people. Thank You for seeking after me. Lord, help me to remember my salvation through Jesus and my desperate, ongoing need for You. May I continue to seek You and be in awestruck wonder of Your love. In Jesus’ name, amen.

# Family Activity

From Harvest Kids

## READ

Read Luke 12:1-10 together.

## WATCH



Topher Time Video 7.4 (from our preschool curriculum)

## ENGAGE

The story of Zacchaeus shows Jesus loving someone that society both literally and figuratively looked down on. As we read through the story of Zacchaeus, think about what it might be like for us to love people regardless of who they are or what they do.

Invite your kids to take turns climbing up a “tree” like Zacchaeus did. Have one child stand on a chair (the tree). While each child is in the tree, have them answer the following question: if Jesus came to your house, what would you do with Him? When finished answering, have the rest of the family shout, “Zacchaeus, come down from that tree.”

## DISCUSS

Help the child jump down from the tree and repeat until every child has had a turn. When finished, remind them that Jesus loves them no matter what. Note: for safety reasons, do not use a rolling or folding chair. Hold the hand of your child while they are on or hopping down from the chair.

Why did the people disapprove of Zacchaeus? How did Jesus show love to Zacchaeus? What are some unkind things kids sometimes do? What do you think Jesus would say to these kids if He went to their house? How can you help others learn about Jesus when you are with them?

## MEMORIZE

Use the suggested motions to memorize Romans 5:8. See how fast your family can say the verse with motions!

“But here is how God (point up with both hands) has shown his love (hug yourself) for us (point to self with both thumbs). While we were still sinners (press knuckles together), Christ died for us (spread arms out like a cross).” Romans 5:8 (extend hands like you’re holding a book).

## PRAY

Father, thank you for showing your great, abundant love to (child’s name). Thank You for sacrificing Your Son, that my child may have eternal life in You. Help my child to see how they can richly love, forgive, and bless others in response to this great love You have given to them.

# Student Devotional

## READ

Read the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10.

Look at how his life has been impacted by his faith in Jesus. His generosity reflects a heart that has been transformed by the gospel. He can't help but give to the poor and needy, he can't help but make sure he has paid back everyone all the money that is owed to them. His focus is not on himself, but on others. He is showing them the same grace the Lord has shown him.

## WRITE

Does your heart reflect the work of the gospel message in your life the same way it affected Zacchaeus?

What are some ways you can be more generous this week?

## RESPOND

When was the last time you gave something to the poor or needy? Find three people this week to either share money with or bring a hot meal. Then pray for them, and pray for them each day.



# Sermon Notes

Sermon Title:  
Pastor:  
February 8–9, 2025

Follow Series

# Week Four

February 9–15, 2025





# Memory Verse

And besides all this,  
between us and you a great  
chasm has been fixed, in  
order that those who would  
pass from here to you may not  
be able, and none may cross  
from there to us.

Luke 16:26

# Prayer Prompts

Luke 16:19-31

**SUNDAY:** Lord, Jesus you rose from the dead to show us who you truly are.

**MONDAY:** Lord God, give me eyes to see those around me who can benefit from my generosity. Give me a heart to grow in the giving of my talents and finances so that I may bring You glory.

**TUESDAY:** I pray, Father, that I would count my days in a manner which would allow for me to advance Your kingdom and be a blessing to the people whom You have sovereignly placed in my life.

**WEDNESDAY:** Living God, Your plan is perfect. My destiny is secure in You. I ask that You would help me obediently follow You for all my days, so that one day I might be with You and comprehend Your unimaginable glory.

**THURSDAY:** Lord God, The thought of the chasm which separates those who know You and those who do not is frightening. Please give me a sense of urgency to share the good news of Jesus with my friends and family who do not yet know You.

**FRIDAY:** Father God, I am grateful for Your written Word. Thank You for Your unchanging, steadfast, and perfect love of Your children.

**SATURDAY:** Dear God, let my life be an example and a shining light to those who do not yet know You. Lord, please use me in a powerful way to bring glory to Your Name.

# Devotional

Luke 16:19-31  
Dr. Christian Constante

## THE COMPASSIONATE HEART OF GOD

In the story of the rich man and Lazarus, Jesus paints a striking and vivid contrast between a wealthy man living in luxury and a poor man, Lazarus, suffering outside his gate. Though the rich man saw Lazarus day after day, his heart remained closed to compassion, and he ignored Lazarus's suffering. When both men die, Lazarus is carried to a place of comfort beside Abraham, while the rich man is left in anguish, longing for relief.

Jesus' parable emphasizes God's deep compassion for those in need and reminds us of our responsibility to reflect His heart toward others. The rich man's sin was not that he was wealthy but that he neglected to show mercy to Lazarus. He chose to live in self-centered comfort, overlooking and ignoring the hurting just outside his door.

In our own lives, we meet people facing physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering. This passage challenges us to consider whether our hearts are open to the needs around us. Are we moved by compassion, or do we turn a blind eye?

Jesus calls us to love our neighbors actively, mirroring God's compassionate heart. True compassion requires more than sympathy; it calls for action. Whether through kind words, prayer, practical help, or simply being present in someone's life, we can bring comfort and support to those who are struggling.

## PRAYER

Dear God, please soften my heart and open my eyes to those who need Your love. Help me reach beyond my comfort zone and extend Your grace. Just as Lazarus found comfort, let me be a source of comfort to others, embodying the generous compassion You have shown me. In the name of Your compassionate and caring Son Jesus Christ I pray, amen.



# Family Activity

From Harvest Kids

## READ

Read 2 Corinthians 1:2-4 together.

## ENGAGE

For younger children, set up a “campsite” with a blanket tent or 100% imagination. Bring along a few favorite stuffies on your camping trip. Take turns pretending to be a growling animal outside the tent. Encourage those inside to comfort each other, including the stuffed animals, by saying, “It’s okay! No need to cry or be afraid. Jesus is with us!”

With older children, as you drive around during the week, be on the lookout for places where caring professionals work in your community.

How do the people in these jobs help others?

How are they showing compassion to people?

## DISCUSS

How is Jesus like a “stuffy” or community helper for us?

Why does Jesus comfort us?

When are some times we need God’s comfort? Why does He give it to us?

How can we show compassion to those who need it?

## PRAY

Father, please help (child’s name) to notice when people are hurting and show them how to share Your loving compassion with them.

# Student Devotional

**READ**

Read Luke 16:19-31.

Notice how the life of the rich man and the poor man end up very differently than what everyone expects. While being on earth, everything seemed to be going well for the one with money. He had food, clothing, shelter. He was successful. Yet at the end of the day he was longing to have what the poor man had. Faith. The poor man didn't have much, but the faith he had was greater than everything else the rich man had. His life on earth might not have been as flashy as the rich man, but at the end of the day he was in heaven. Living in paradise. It just goes to show that it doesn't matter what you put your treasures in here on earth. What matters is if you have the eternal mindset. Having money and nice things isn't bad, it's what you do with them that will determine if they are heavenly treasures or earthly treasures.

**WRITE**

How can you be more generous with what the Lord has blessed you with?

**FOR YOUR  
SMALL GROUP**

What does it mean to have an eternal mindset? And how can you live that out daily?

Are you living by the world's standards or by the standards that the Lord has decided for you?

Have you answered the call of the gospel? If you have, does your life reflect it? Write this out and share this with someone! If you haven't, what are you waiting for? Don't wait the same way the rich man waited.

**ACTION STEPS**

Write a list of the top five or six priorities in your life. Where is God on this list? If He's not number one, what will you surrender to make Him the number one priority? If He is number one, how do you continue to live each day for Him? Encourage one another and share your experiences.

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# Sermon Notes

Sermon Title:  
Pastor:  
February 15-16, 2025



Follow Series

# Week Five

February 16–22, 2025





## Memory Verse

“Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”

Luke 14:27

## Prayer Prompts

Luke 14:25-33

**SUNDAY:** Please, Father, fill me with Your love, show me how to abide in You, and produce fruit for Your kingdom. I desire to be Your disciple.

**MONDAY:** Most gracious Father, please create within me a desire to love you more than anyone or anything in this world. Not that I would love family and friends less, but that I would love you all the more.

**TUESDAY:** Oh, Holy Father, please strengthen me to carry the cross You want me to bear. Teach me how to ‘go the distance’ and run the race with joy in my heart.

**WEDNESDAY:** Dear Savior, give me the resolve to be Your disciple, especially when there are so many idols and falsehoods that distract me. Please fill me with a clear vision of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord.

**THURSDAY:** Most powerful Lord, You know I am a person who has great difficulty sitting down and reflecting. Please quiet my soul. Show me how to joyfully count the cost of being your disciple as I seek to serve You.

**FRIDAY:** Lord of all, give me perseverance in the plans You inspire within me.

**SATURDAY:** Creator God, You search and know my heart. You also know I can easily turn our worship to other things such as money, success, and my schedule. Please show me how to lay those things aside and to seek You above all else.





# Family Activity

From Harvest Kids

## READ

Read Genesis 6:5-22 together.

## ENGAGE

Take out your family’s favorite building materials (Lego, blocks, magnetiles, play dough).

Together, try to build the tallest structure you can.

## DISCUSS

God gave Noah a pretty big job; God asked him to build a huge boat, even though he didn’t live near a lake or ocean. Many people made fun of Noah for building the ark, but he persevered in finishing the job that God gave him.

What is the biggest project you have built out of Lego or blocks?

How long did it take you?

What would have happened if Noah had given up and left the ark half built?

How should we respond to hard jobs God gives us?

## MEMORIZE

Someday, God might give one of us a hard job to do, too. God might ask you to be friends with a kid who everyone else is choosing to ignore. He might ask you to forgive a sibling or friend who teases you every day.

God was pleased with Noah’s perseverance, and God will also be pleased with you when you persevere in doing what is right.

Galatians 6:9, “So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”

Sit in a circle with a potato/ball. Practice the verse together until everyone is familiar. When ready, give the potato to one of your children. Instruct them to begin passing the potato around the circle. As each person receives the potato, have the group say one word from the Bible verse. The person who is holding the potato at the end of the verse gets to stand up and do a silly dance. Play several rounds, going faster and faster, to help the children learn the verse.

## PRAY

Father, I pray for (child’s name) to learn early in life that when they rely on You, troubles in life are so much less overwhelming. As my children follow You, may they persevere, depending on the resources You have given them—Your Holy Spirit, Your Word, prayer, and other Christians—rather than attempting to succeed in their own strength. I pray that faith, goodness, self-control, perseverance, godliness, kindness, and love may be developed in their lives so they will be effective and productive in serving You.

# Student Devotional

## READ

Read Luke 14:25-33.

In this passage, Jesus challenges those who wish to follow Him to carefully consider the cost of discipleship. He speaks about the need to prioritize Him above all else, even family, and the importance of counting the cost before embarking on the journey of faith.

## FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP

Prioritizing Christ: Jesus says that anyone who comes to Him must “hate” their family and even their own life (Luke 14:26). What do you think He means by this? How does this challenge the way you view your relationships and your personal priorities?

The Cost of Discipleship: Jesus talks about the need to count the cost (Luke 14:28-32). What might be some personal costs of following Jesus that you have encountered or may face? How do you feel about these costs?

Sacrificial Love: Jesus calls us to bear our cross (Luke 14:27). What does “bearing your cross” look like in your life? Are there areas where you are struggling to surrender your will for His?

## RESPOND

Take a moment to pray and ask God to reveal areas where He is calling you to a deeper commitment to Him.

Are there any “counting the cost” moments in your life that you feel He is asking you to step into more fully?

# Sermon Notes

Sermon Title:  
Pastor:  
February 22-23, 2025



Follow Series

# Week Six

February 23–March 1, 2025





## Memory Verse

Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Luke 9:62

## Prayer Prompts

Luke 9:57-62

**SUNDAY:** Heavenly Father, give me a forward-facing faith. Keep my heart, soul, and mind fixed on You. Steel me against any desire to step backwards or to turn around. May I remain resolute in my commitment to love, to serve, and to follow You.

**MONDAY:** Father God, grant me the spiritual discipline and steadfastness to obediently follow wherever You lead me on this Christian journey of sanctification.

**TUESDAY:** Heavenly Father, please release me from the snares and trappings of this material world; instead, form in me a burning desire to focus on the riches of Your kingdom.

**WEDNESDAY:** Father God, help me to forgo the hours wasted on trivial and often meaningless things. Allow me to redeem that time in worship and fervent prayer.

**THURSDAY:** Father God, grant me the boldness to proclaim the good news of salvation whenever, however, and wherever You provide the opportunity.

**FRIDAY:** Heavenly Father, build in me a fearless faith so that I will be able to stand firm, even in the face of private and public persecution.

**SATURDAY:** Father, test my heart. Measure my resolve to follow You. Stretch me in every way, so that I will be equipped enough to withstand the confusion, temptations, and wickedness of this world.

# Devotional

Luke 9:57-62  
Ben France

## NO MATTER THE COST

Have you ever read the passage where Jesus tells His disciples, “Take up their cross and follow me”? Maybe you’ve read the Scriptures or grew up in Christian circles where you heard different one-liners that tried to describe the cost of following Jesus. But have you ever taken the time to really consider what it takes?

In Luke 9:57–62, Jesus addresses three potential disciples. Through their dialogue with Jesus, we see some examples of the true cost of following Christ. The first tries to make a quick decision to leave his current life behind and follow Jesus. Jesus' response reminds us that anyone who follows Him has to be willing to give up feeling "at home" in this world. We trade our comfort to follow Jesus.

The second potential disciple is called by Jesus. He says, "Follow me." This guy says, "Yes—but not yet." He wants to wait until his father passes. Jesus' reply to this man's request shows us that to follow Him, our ultimate allegiance must be to Him above all else. We give our loyalty to Jesus.

The last potential disciple wants to go back to his family and say goodbye before following Jesus. But Jesus knew if the man were to go home first, his love for his family would weaken his strength to follow Him. Jesus' response

is that anyone who follows Him cannot look back—only to “put his hand to the plow” and move forward. We give up our old lives for Jesus.

The cost of following Jesus is not cheap. It costs everything. Our comfort, our allegiance, our old lives. When we follow Christ, everything changes—it's incredible and always worth it. So, are you all in? Are you sold-out for Jesus no matter the cost?

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your only Son to die in my place. Thank You for Your steadfast love toward us. You are unequalled in power and wisdom. Teach us to surrender all that we have to You—You are worthy of our undivided devotion. Thank You for Your great patience in our weakness. We love You, Lord. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Family Activity

From Harvest Kids

## READ

Read Luke 9:57-62, Hebrews 12:2a together.

## WATCH



Journey Today Show 7.1



Balance Beam

## ENGAGE

During the Olympics, we see gymnasts deliver incredible leaps, flips, and twists on a four-inch wide beam, elevated four feet off the ground.

Watch the balance beam video above and notice how focused the athlete appears during the routine. Observe how they keep their attention fixed on a single point ahead of them.

Try walking on your own, homemade “balance beam” (use a 2x4, or cut and assemble a four-inch wide strip of paper, or mark out a four-inch wide section of floor with masking tape or chalk).

## DISCUSS

Have your child try walking with their attention fixed on a focal point ahead. Next, have them try the same task without a focal point.

What happens when a gymnast takes their eyes off of their focal point while they’re on the beam?

When you walked along our “balance beam,” was it easier or harder when you focused on a point ahead of you?

Where does the Bible say our focus should be when we follow Jesus?

When we focus on God, it is much easier to follow Him. When we take our eyes off of God, it becomes more difficult to live in a way that pleases Him.

## MEMORIZE

Hebrews 12:2a, “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.”

As you practice saying this verse, walk across your “balance beam.” You can even have the kids try balancing something on their hands or heads while they walk and recite the verse.

## PRAY

Lord, please help (child’s name) to follow You all the days of their life. Let them run the race You have set before them with endurance. Protect them from any sin that ensnares or weight that slows them down. Help them to focus their eyes on You alone.

# Student Devotional

**READ**

Read Luke 9:57-62.

In this passage, Jesus encounters three individuals who express a desire to follow Him, but each faces a different hesitation. Jesus’ responses teach us about the radical nature of discipleship, which includes prioritizing the kingdom of God and being willing to give and serve without hesitation.

**FOR YOUR  
SMALL GROUP**

The Cost of Comfort in Serving: When the person offers to follow Jesus, He responds by saying, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” How does this challenge the idea of serving or giving with comfort in mind? When it comes to financial giving or serving others, are you ever hesitant because of the personal comfort it may cost you? How can you respond to Jesus’ call to follow Him, even if it means sacrificing your own comfort?

Sacrificial Giving: When Jesus calls one person to follow Him, the man responds, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” Jesus tells him, “Let the dead bury their own dead.” In what ways might your current financial giving or service to others be delayed by obligations or personal plans?

**RESPOND**

How can you shape your priorities to focus more on the kingdom of God, even in the midst of your other commitments?

Moving Forward with Christ: Another person says, “Lord, I will follow You, but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.” Jesus answers, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” How does this apply to our attitudes toward financial giving or serving others? Are there past fears or attachments that are keeping you from fully stepping into a life of generous giving or service? What does it look like to serve wholeheartedly, without looking back?

Take a moment to pray and ask God to reveal areas where He is calling you to a deeper commitment to Him.

Are there any “counting the cost” moments in your life that you feel He is asking you to step into more fully?

# Sermon Notes

Sermon Title:  
Pastor:  
March 1-2, 2025



## Notes







# Follow

BY FAITH I/WE COMMIT TO  
GIVE TO THE FOLLOW INITIATIVE  
AT HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL:

25 Month Total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Beginning today as the Lord provides, I/we will give  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Weekly ☐ Bi-weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually

Please contact me about how to give through:

☐ Stock ☐ Real Estate ☐ Other

**Automated Giving:** To set up your FOLLOW offering online,  
go to [harvestbible.org/give](https://harvestbible.org/give) for more information.

Please use one pledge card for the entire campaign.

Indicate "FOLLOW" and your campus name on the memo line  
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25-MONTH COMMITMENT	ANNUALLY	MONTHLY
\$1,200	\$600	\$50
\$2,000	\$1,200	\$100
\$6,000	\$3,000	\$250
\$9,000	\$4,000	\$375
\$12,000	\$6,000	\$500
\$18,000	\$9,000	\$750
\$24,000	\$12,000	\$1,000
\$36,000	\$16,000	\$1,500
\$48,000	\$24,000	\$2,000
\$72,000	\$36,000	\$3,000
\$120,000	\$60,000	\$5,000
\$240,000	\$120,000	\$10,000

This pledge is accepted with the understanding that the church has administrative discretion to use the donated funds as it sees fit for ministry purposes.



**Follow**