

FOLLOW ME #4

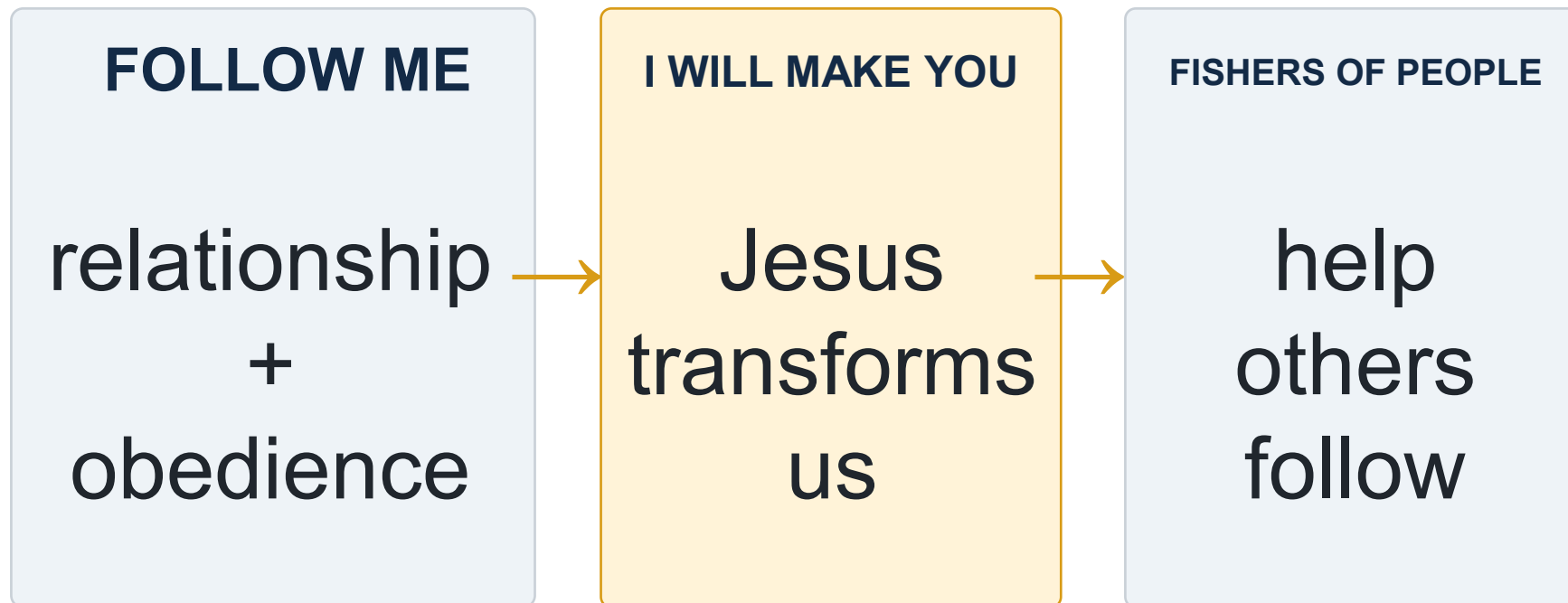
Opening Prayer

- Lord Jesus, show us where we have made following You too comfortable.
- Help us hear Your invitation without softening Your words.
- Expose what we are still keeping off-limits.
- Give us courage to surrender what You ask for.
- Remind us that grace came first — and You are worth following.

FOLLOW ME

The Series Anchor

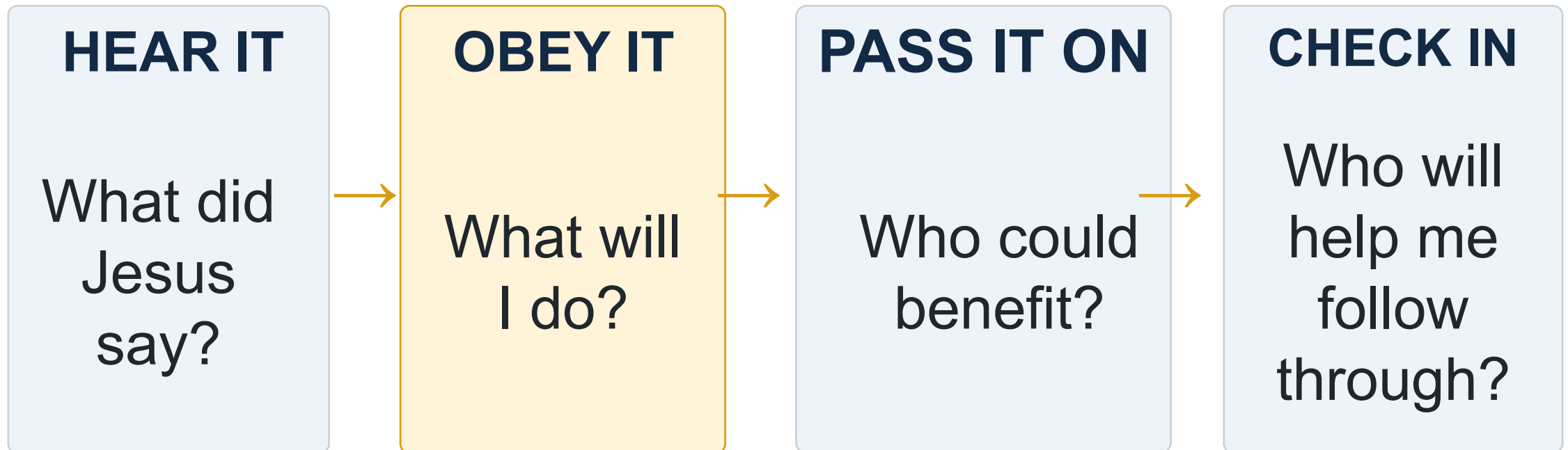
“Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” — Mark 1:17



OUR SIMPLE RHYTHM

Hear It → Obey It → Pass It On → Check In

**Truth should move from the sermon into life —
and from us into someone else.**



THE STORY SO FAR – Building our house



FOLLOW ME



CHRIST — CRUCIFIED • RISEN • LORD

BUILD A LIFE THAT FOLLOWS JESUS

FOLLOW ME → I WILL MAKE YOU → FISHERS OF PEOPLE

THE STORY SO FAR

#1 FOLLOW ME

#2 LOVE PROTECTS



1. CHRIST — CRUCIFIED • RISEN • LORD

BUILD A LIFE THAT FOLLOWS JESUS

FOLLOW ME → I WILL MAKE YOU → FISHERS OF PEOPLE

THE STORY SO FAR

#1 FOLLOW ME



#2 LOVE PROTECTS



#3 HEAR + OBEY



3. HEAR + OBEY

1. CHRIST — CRUCIFIED • RISEN • LORD

BUILD A LIFE THAT FOLLOWS JESUS

No Greater Joy

I have no Greater Joy than
to hear that my children
are walking with the truth.
3 John 1:4.

LOOK BACK (Chocolate Opportunity)

Hear & Obey — Did We Build?

OBEY IT

What was
ONE clear
thing Jesus
made clear?

Did you
actually do it?

PASS IT ON

Who did you
tell
what you
learned?

Who benefited
because you
passed it on?

CHECK IN

Did your
scuba buddy
ask?

What
happened?
What did you
learn?

Celebrate movement. Learn from delay. Keep following.

FOLLOW ME → I WILL MAKE YOU → FISHERS OF PEOPLE

THE STORY SO FAR

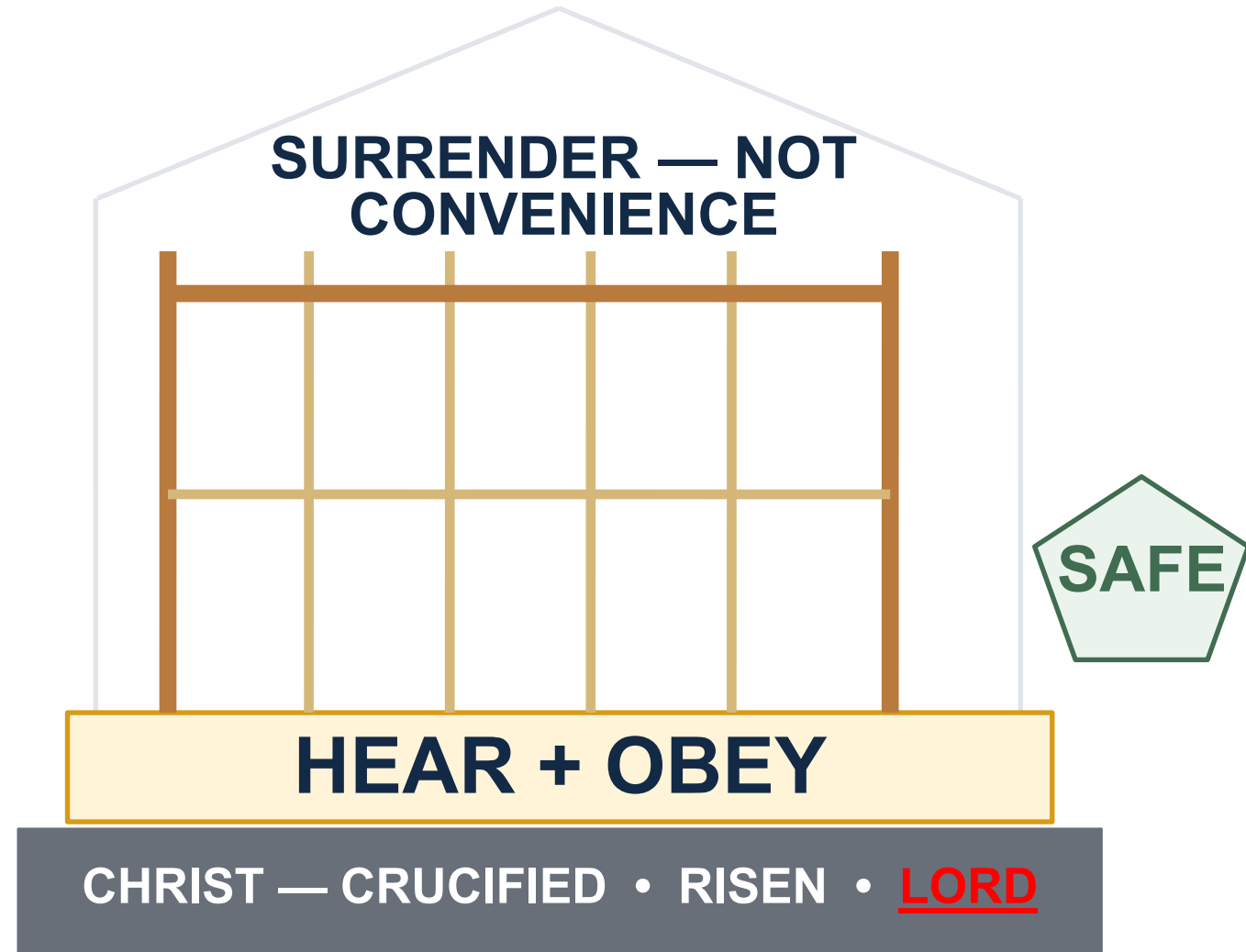
#1 FOLLOW ME

#2 LOVE PROTECTS

#3 HEAR + OBEY

TODAY

#4 COUNT THE COST



BUILD A LIFE THAT FOLLOWS JESUS

FOLLOW ME — REVIEW

What Have We Learned So Far?

#1 FOLLOW ME

Follow Me → I will make you → fishers of people.

#2 SAFE SPACES

Love protects the vulnerable — and uses the right process. (hugs are for famil

#3 HEAR & OBEY

A disciple does not merely hear Jesus. A disciple does it.

Today we add the next piece to the house.

#4 TODAY

Following Jesus means surrender, not convenience.

FOLLOW ME #4

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

Luke 9:23–25 • Luke 14:25–33

Luke 9:23–25

- 23 Then he said to them all, “If anyone wants to become my **follower**, he must deny himself, **take up his cross daily**, **and follow me**. 24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life **because of me** will save it. 25 For what does it benefit a person if he gains the whole world but loses or forfeits himself?

Luke 14:25–33

- ²⁵ Now large crowds were accompanying Jesus, and turning to them he said, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ **Whoever does not carry his own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.** ²⁸ For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn’t sit down first and compute the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundations and is not able to finish the tower, all who see it will begin to make fun of him. ³⁰ They will say, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish!’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to confront another king in battle, will not sit down first and determine whether he is able with 10,000 to oppose the one coming against him with 20,000? ³² If he cannot succeed, he will send a representative while the other is still a long way off and ask for terms of peace. ³³ In the same way therefore **not one of you can be my disciple** if he does not renounce all his own possessions.

TODAY'S BIG IDEA

**Following Jesus Means Surrender,
Not Convenience**

**JESUS DOES NOT ASK TO BE
AN ADD-ON TO MY LIFE.**

HE IS LORD OF IT.

COUNT THE COST — THEN FOLLOW.

LUKE 9:23

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

DENY SELF • TAKE UP YOUR CROSS • FOLLOW JESUS

LUKE 9:23

“If Anyone...”

**THIS IS NOT AN ADVANCED CLASS
FOR SUPER-CHRISTIANS.**

NOT JUST

pastors
missionaries
“serious” Christians

JESUS SAID

“If anyone...”
The call belongs to every
disciple.

Discipleship is the normal Christian life.

DENY YOURSELF

Not Self-Hatred — Surrender of Self-Rule

IT DOES NOT MEAN

“I am worthless.”

“I have no value.”

“I must erase my personality.”

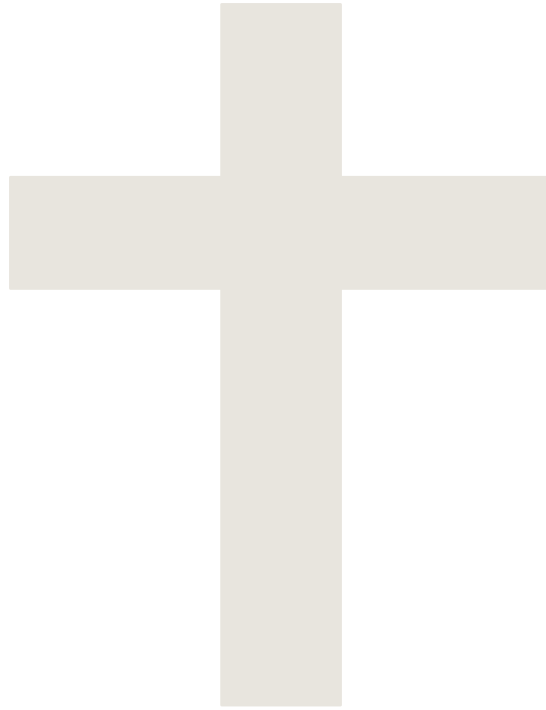
IT MEANS

“I am no longer my own final authority.”

Jesus has first claim on my choices.

I STOP INSISTING THAT MY WAY GETS THE FINAL WORD.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS



ONE SMALL WORD

Daily

“...take up his cross DAILY and follow me.”

MONDAY

Jesus
first.

TUESDAY

Jesus
first.

WEDNESDAY

Jesus
first.

TODAY

Jesus
first.

Surrender is not one dramatic moment. It becomes a way of life.

THE CENTRE “Follow Me”

**DISCIPLESHIP IS A PERSON
BEFORE IT IS A PROGRAM.**

NOT

“How much religion
can I fit around
my life?”

BUT

“How does my life
revolve around
Jesus?”

LUKE 9:24

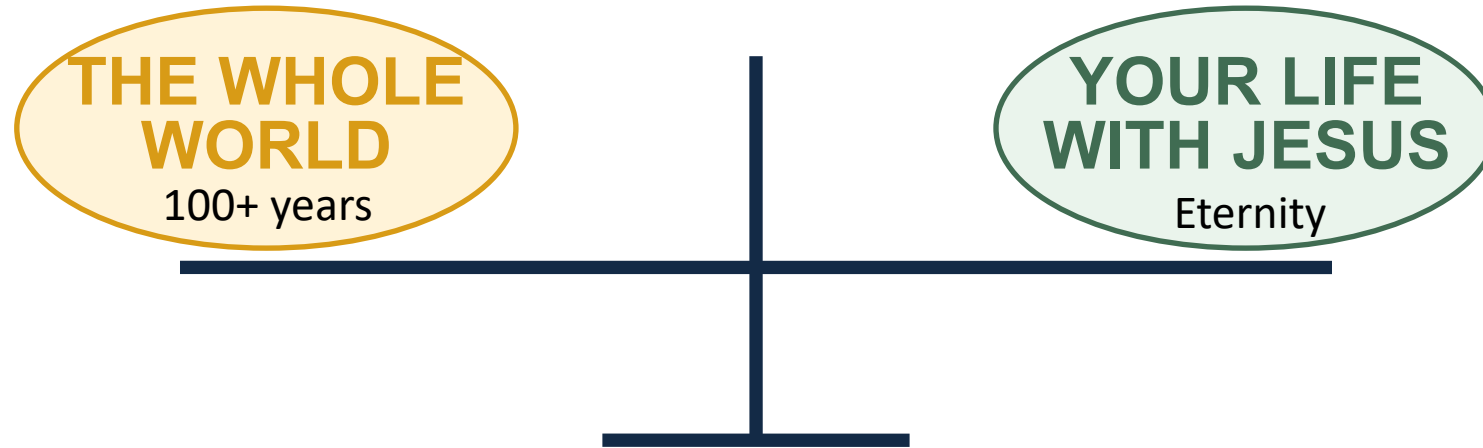
**“Whoever would save his
life will lose it, but whoever
loses his life for my sake
will save it.”**

**THE WAY OF JESUS SOUNDS LIKE LOSS — AND LEADS TO
LIFE.**

LUKE 9:25

What If I Gain Everything?

**“What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world
and loses or forfeits himself?”**



You can gain much and still lose what matters most.

TAKE NOTE

The Cost Is About Lordship

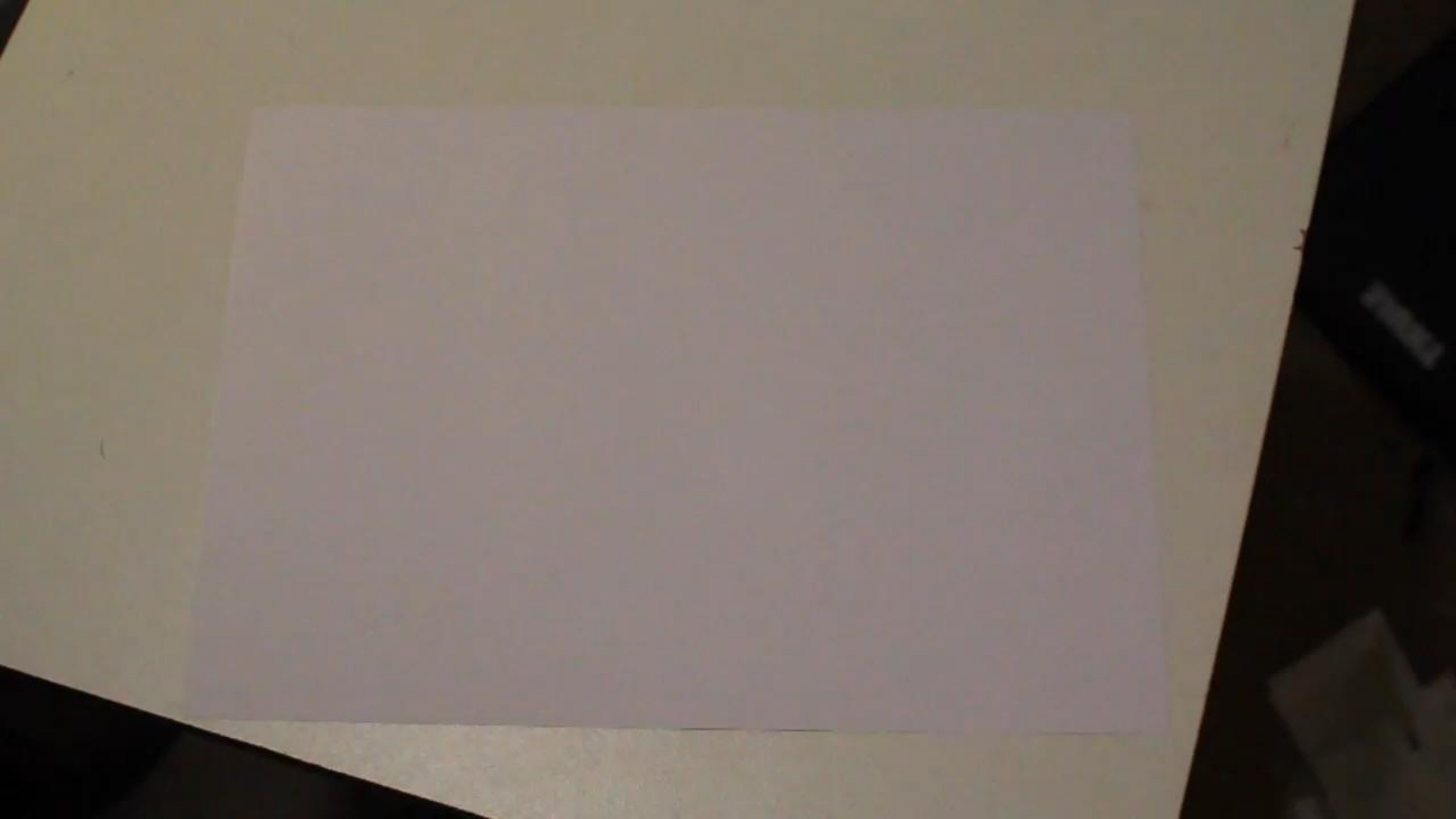
**THE QUESTION IS NOT:
“HOW MUCH CAN JESUS TAKE FROM
ME?”**

**THE QUESTION IS:
“WHO GETS THE FINAL SAY?”**

FOLLOWING JESUS MEANS SURRENDER, NOT CONVENIENCE.

What does it mean to make Jesus “my Lord”?





LUKE 14:25

A Large Crowd Is Following

WHAT WE MIGHT EXPECT

“Great crowd!
Make it easy.
Keep everyone
happy.
Lower the
barrier.”

WHAT JESUS DOES

He turns around
and tells them
the cost
of following Him.

Jesus refuses to recruit disciples under false pretences.

LUKE 14:26

“Hate” — A Deliberately Shocking Comparison

Jesus is NOT commanding cruelty, neglect or family hatred.

LUKE 14:26

Jesus uses severe language to demand supreme allegiance.

MATTHEW 10:37

“Whoever loves father or mother MORE THAN ME...”

The parallel helps clarify the point.

No relationship outranks Jesus.

SUPREME ALLEGIANCE

Jesus First — Even Among Good Gifts

FAMILY

Love
deeply.
Jesus
first.

IDENTITY

Receive
it.
Jesus
defines
me.

PLANS

Plan
wisely.
Jesus
can
redirect.

APPROVAL

Value
people.
Jesus
gets
final say.

The issue is not whether these things are good. The issue is whether they are first.

LUKE 14:27 (What King would...)

**JESUS REPEATS THE
POINT:**

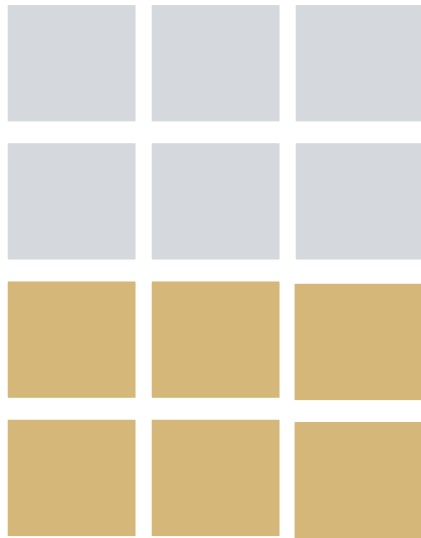
FOLLOWING HIM IS NOT CASUAL.

**THE CROSS ENDS THE ILLUSION
THAT I AM MY OWN LORD.**

LUKE 14:28–30

The Unfinished Tower

**STARTED...
BUT NOT
FINISHED**



JESUS' QUESTION

“Which of you,
desiring to build a
tower, does not first
sit down and COUNT
THE COST...?”

Luke 14:28

COUNT THE COST

Jesus Does Not Hide the Fine Print

COME TO JESUS

Grace is offered freely.

FOLLOW JESUS

He becomes Lord, not an accessory.

KEEP FOLLOWING

Surrender becomes **daily**, not occasional.

Grace is not bait-and-switch. Jesus tells us the truth about following Him.

LUKE 14:31–32

The King Who Counts Before Battle

10,000

vs

20,000

Can I win on my own terms?

**SURRENDER IS WISER THAN PRETENDING I AM
KING.**

LUKE 14:33

**“Any one of you who does
not renounce all that he has
cannot be my disciple.”**

EVERYTHING I HAVE COMES UNDER JESUS' RULE.

WHAT COMES UNDER JESUS?

Everything

RELATIONSHIPS

Who has first claim?

TIME

Who sets priorities?

MONEY

Who owns it?

BODY

Who defines faithfulness?

PLANS

Who can redirect?

REPUTATION

Whose approval matters most?

Jesus is not one department in my life. He is Lord of the whole house.

PERSONAL DIAGNOSTIC

What Am I Still Reserving for Myself?

“Jesus, You can have everything...
EXCEPT _____.”

COMFORT

CONTROL

MONEY

RELATIONSHIP

REPUTATION

TIME

HABIT

FUTURE

What am I afraid Jesus might ask me to put under His rule?

AVOID THE TWO DITCHES

Cheap Grace vs Earn-It Religion

DITCH 1 — NO COST

“Jesus saves me,
so obedience does
not matter.”

Grace becomes
permission
to remain
unchanged.

DITCH 2 — EARN IT

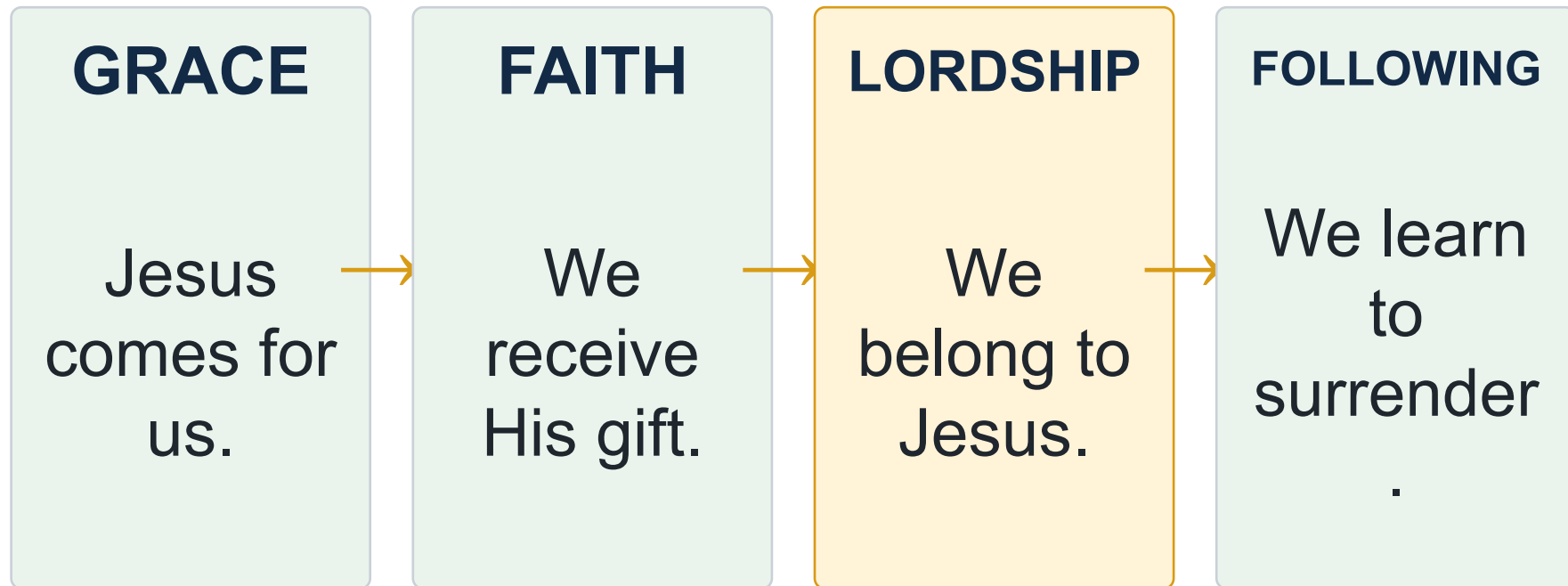
“If I sacrifice
enough,
God will accept
me.”

Discipleship
becomes
a payment plan.

Neither is the Gospel.

THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD

Grace Saves. Followers Surrender.



We do not surrender to buy salvation. We surrender because Jesus has saved us and is Lord.

WE REALISE THAT HE KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR LIVES AND WE TRUST HIM!

THE GOSPEL FITS THE MESSAGE

“Not my will, but yours, be done.”
Luke 22:42

THE ONE WHO SAYS “TAKE UP YOUR CROSS” FIRST TOOK UP
HIS.

THE GOSPEL

The Gift Was Free to Us — Costly to Christ

- Our sin separates us from God.
- Jesus came to seek and save the lost.
- Christ died for our sins and was buried.
- God raised Him from the dead.
- Forgiveness and new life are received by grace through faith.

We do not pay Jesus back. We give ourselves because He has given Himself for us.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

**WHAT PART OF MY LIFE
AM I STILL KEEPING
OFF-LIMITS TO JESUS?**

**Not ten things. One honest area.
One next step.**

MAKE IT CONCRETE

What Might Surrender Look Like?

TIME

Make room for what Jesus has already made clear.

MONEY

Give / stop gripping / act generously.

FORGIVENESS

Release the right to keep rehearsing the offence.

PLANS

Let Jesus redirect a future you had already decided.

REPUTATION

Obey even if someone thinks you are strange.

CONTROL

Ask for help; stop insisting on your preferred outcome.

Your step may be different. The question is: what has Jesus made clear TO YOU?

SCUBA BUDDY

Never Dive Alone

YOUR BUDDY...

checks in — not
checks up
watches your back
helps when you get
stuck
encourages you to
keep moving
prays with you and for
you

THIS WEEK...

Tell one person:

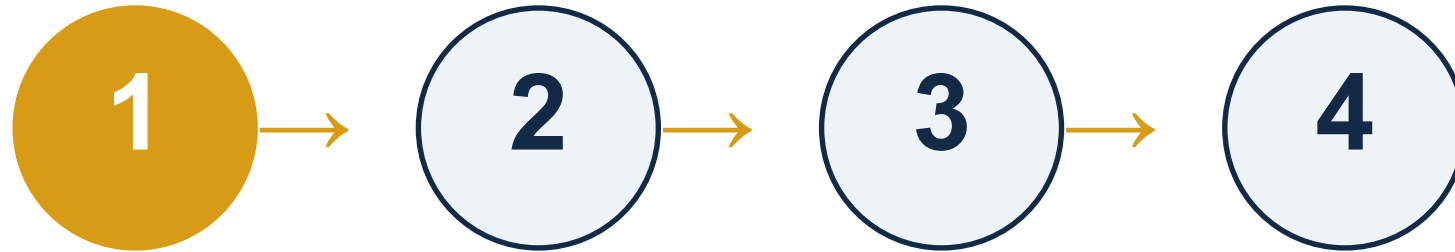
“This is the area I
am putting under
Jesus’ rule. Please
ask me what I did
about it.”

Two are better than one. — Ecclesiastes 4:9–10

HOT POTATO

Pass It On

DO NOT LET TRUTH DIE IN YOUR
NOTEBOOK.



Who could benefit from ONE thing you learned today
— **and was not here?**

2 Timothy 2:2

OBEY & REPORT

This Week's Challenge

NAME IT

What area
is Jesus
asking
me to
surrender
?

DO IT

What
concrete
action will
show
that
surrender?

TELL

Who
could
benefit
from this
truth?

WHO WILL ASK?

Name
your
scuba
buddy.

ONE SURRENDER. ONE ACTION. ONE PERSON. ONE FOLLOW-UP.

**Try to take the first practical step
within 48 hours.**

WHAT DO I NEED TO REMEMBER?

FOLLOW ME — The Story So Far

#1 FOLLOW ME

Follow Me → I will make you → fishers of people.



#2 SAFE SPACES

Love protects the vulnerable — and uses the right process.



#3 HEAR & OBEY

A disciple does not merely hear Jesus. A disciple does it.



#4 COUNT THE COST

Following Jesus means surrender, not convenience.



HEAR IT → OBEY IT → PASS IT ON → CHECK IN

Closing Prayer

- Thank You, Jesus, that You gave Yourself for us.
- Show us what we are still holding back.
- Help us surrender every part of our lives to Your rule.
- Give us courage to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily.
- Teach us to trust You when obedience is costly.
- Help us follow You faithfully and help others follow You too.
- Protect us and help us this week to do just one thing that we have been holding back from you.
- In your name Amen

FOLLOW JESUS. SURRENDER DAILY. HELP OTHERS FOLLOW.