

Week One: *Followers of the Way*
Matthew 7:24-29

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. When you hear the word “way,” what comes to mind? Look up definitions for more thoughts.
2. Read Acts 9:2; 24:14. What are followers of Jesus called?
3. Why is this an appropriate term?
4. Would you say most people view Christianity as a set of beliefs or as a lifestyle? What about you? Why?
5. What kind of lifestyle accurately reflects Jesus’ way?
6. End your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God to show where your daily life best reflects what he wants for you and where he wants to give you more.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

7. What do you know about the Sermon on the Mount?
8. Would you say the Sermon on the Mount is about intellectual ideas, practical ways to live, or both? Skim the headings in Matthew 5-7 for help.
9. Read Matthew 7:24-29. This is the end of the Sermon on the Mount. What does Jesus want his listeners to do?
10. How do the crowds respond?
11. What difference do the crowds recognize about Jesus’ teaching?
12. Does Jesus have the authority to tell you the way to live? End your FIFTEEN reflecting on what your lifestyle reveals about your response to Jesus’ authority.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

13. Do you consider yourself more of a leader or a follower? Are these mutually exclusive?

14. Read Matthew 7:24-29 again. Now read Acts 24:14. What actions or lifestyle would you say characterized the followers of The Way?
15. When Jesus asks people to follow him, what is he asking from them? (See examples in Matthew 4:19; 9:9; 19:21.)
16. Looking at your daily life, who or what are you following? Are you happy with this?
17. End your FIFTEEN in honest reflection. Do you believe following Jesus' way of living gives you the best life?

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

18. Do you have more life experience with sand or rocks?
19. Reread Matthew 7:24-29. What does the rock represent? What makes the man wise?
20. What do you think the wind and the rain represent?
21. How could living Jesus' way help a person stand firm in life's difficulties?
22. Jesus states we can trust his words and do what he says without fear. He offers wisdom and security. Where in your life would a lifestyle change make you more secure?
23. End your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God for strength, courage, and the desire to start living his way in more areas of your life.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

24. What image would you use to convey abundance?
25. Read John 10:1-16. Focus on verse 10. Read verse 10 in several versions. What kind of life does Jesus come to give his followers?
26. What does an abundant life look like to you?

27. According to Jesus, following him is a way of living that leads to a better, fuller life. How have you experienced this?

28. Jesus came to give you life – abundant and full, real and eternal, overflowing. What holds you back from a fuller, richer life?

29. End your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God to show you where you are settling for crumbs. Then ask him to open you up to the totality of abundance he has for you.