

# FOLLOW THE WAY.

*The Hills Church exists to make and grow followers of Jesus, and we do this together by being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and doing what Jesus did. This series unpacks that strategy and explores Jesus' invitation to follow him as a call to both his life and his way of life.*

## Week 1: Follow Jesus

1. What stood out to you in the introduction, particularly in the celebration of baptisms and the emphasis on Jesus inviting people to follow him (**Mark 1:16-17; 2:13-14; 8:34, & 10:21**)?
2. **“FOLLOW” A charge.** Rick said that the biggest problem in the church today is between what Christians say they believe & how they actually live. He called it a crisis of formation. Do you agree? Why or why not? Follow up: What's the difference in accepting Jesus and following Jesus (**see Matthew 28:18-20**)?
3. **“FOLLOW” A challenge.** *The local church does not exist to provide services to consumers; it exists to equip followers to embrace the life and mission of Jesus.* Can you identify examples from your own experiences where the “lower room” (place, personality, programs, people) influenced your perception of a church? How can we prioritize & measure success in the “upper room” of transformation rather than just the efficiency of the “lower room”?
4. **“FOLLOW” A change.** What do you remember, if anything, about Next Steps? How was it helpful, how was it not useful?
5. **“ME” What Jesus meant. Duplication was the destination.** Rick said to follow a rabbi is to **be with him (Mark 3:13-14a), become like him (Luke 6:40), and do what he did (Mark 3:14b-15)**. How does that compare with your past understanding of or approach to discipleship? How does this new understanding excite you & where does it challenge you?
6. **“ME” What Jesus means.** *We must focus on the pursuit of Christlikeness and we must emphasize community not as part of following, but as the environment for following.* **Read Acts 1:8 and 1 Corinthians 12:3.** Why is it so important to follow Jesus in community? Why is the role of the Holy Spirit so important in following Jesus? What does that look like for you? NOTE: Consider doing **Rooted** together -- <https://thehills.org/rooted>
7. **“COME” Following is not about getting Jesus into my life; it is about getting into his.** How can we assess our own lives to ensure they align with the way of Jesus? Follow up: Here's the question to reflect on as you go through this week: ***Is the way I'm doing life getting in the way of following Jesus?***

