

From the Pledge: "Riverside will be a church so compassionate that people are drawn from impossible situations into loving, accepting family and then pointed to JESUS, the ONLY answer for the world."

Matthew 4:16 (NLT) - "... the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And for those ... a light has shined."

### Jesus our Hope

#### 1. A simple call to follow.

Mark 8:34 (NLT) - Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me."

#### 2. A simple call becomes complicated.

Matthew 24:26 (NLT) - "So if someone tells you, 'Look, the Messiah is out in the desert,' don't bother to go and look. Or, 'Look, he is hiding here,' don't believe it!"

#### 3. A return to a simple call to follow.

Acts 4:13 (NLT) - The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.

## Study Guide

1. Think back to the time that you accepted Jesus as your Saviour. Can you recall what that experience was like? How did you feel in that moment, or in the moments that followed?
2. What, if anything, did you understand regarding following Jesus? How did you come to that understanding?
3. Were there any challenges associated with the practice of following the Lord? Can you articulate what those challenges were? Does an element of those difficulties still exist?
4. If a new or non-believer were to inquire about the 'following' aspect of your Christian walk, how would you explain it? Could you come up with some practical suggestions as to how to develop and understand it? Jot those suggestions/strategies down:

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5. Take some time to think and pray about the state of your following.