



Sermon Discussion Guide

April 5 & 6, 2025

"How Can We Follow Jesus Today?"

[John 14:1-6](#)

"The Jesus Who's More Than We Think" is a six-week sermon series exploring the true identity of Jesus beyond cultural assumptions and watered-down beliefs. This series invites you to rediscover Jesus in his fullness and experience the transformation that comes from knowing him as he truly is.

PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on hopeonline.tv. Did you have any ah-ha moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

GROW

Read [Mark 8:34-35](#) – "Jesus Predicts His Death"

- What fears or hesitations might someone have about giving up their own way to follow Jesus?
- How does Jesus' invitation to "give up your life" for his sake contrast with how our culture defines success or purpose? What do you think Jesus meant by "losing your life" in order to save it?
- What would it look like to "take up your cross" in your daily life—at home, at work, or in your relationships?
- Pastor Ashley said some of us might know Jesus with our head, but not heart—where do you see that distinction in your life?

Read [John 14:1-6](#) – "Jesus, the Way to the Father"

- What emotions surface when you hear Jesus say, "Don't let your hearts be troubled"? Why do you think Jesus emphasizes trust so strongly in this moment with his disciples?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is the only way to the Father? How might this truth impact the way you interact with non-Christians?
- Have you let Jesus become more than just a historical figure? In what areas of your life is it hard to trust that Jesus knows the way forward?
- The message reminded us that Jesus' way is often upside-down compared to the world's. How can you model that kind of life?

Read [Matthew 20:25-28](#) – "Jesus Teaches About Serving Others"

- How does it feel to hear that greatness in God's kingdom looks like servanthood rather than power?
- Why do you think Jesus emphasized that even he came to serve rather than be served?
- What roles or situations in your life give you opportunities to serve others in ways that reflect Jesus' example?
- How could servanthood challenge your group, family, or workplace culture? How might you encourage or empower others to lead by serving? Who around you could be impacted if you quietly stepped in to serve where help is needed this week?

Read [Luke 9:59-62](#) – "The Cost of Following Jesus"

- How do you react emotionally to Jesus' words about not looking back once you've chosen to follow him?
- The sermon emphasized that Jesus isn't looking to fit into our lives—he wants to transform them. How does this passage reinforce that idea?
- What area of your life have you been reluctant to surrender because it feels too costly or uncertain?
- How could your commitment to follow Jesus—without hesitation or excuses—inspire someone else in their own faith journey?

APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week ...

- Identify what "cross" Jesus may be inviting you to carry right now. Is it a personal sacrifice, a hard truth, a calling you've resisted, or a step of faith you've been avoiding? Ask Jesus to help you surrender your comfort in exchange for obedience.
- Find a way to serve someone (family, friend, coworker, stranger) in a way that costs you something (time, energy, pride) but doesn't benefit your reputation. Resist the urge to share it on social media or talk about it. Let the hidden act shape your heart.
- Pick one area of your life (your schedule, finances, family, screen time, relationships) where you typically make decisions based on personal preference. Commit to letting Jesus take the lead. Ask him how he wants to transform that area of your life.