

How to Become a Follower of Jesus

To become a follower of Jesus is to join God in His story of creation, incarnation, and re-creation.

CREATION

God Created: Beauty, purpose and evidence of His design are all around us. The Bible tells us that God originally planned a world that worked perfectly, where everything and everyone fit together in harmony. God made each of us with a purpose, to worship and walk with Him. “God saw all that He had made, and it was very good” (Genesis 1:31).

We Rebelled: The first humans refused God’s reign over them. We selfishly insist on doing things our own way. The Bible calls this sin. We all sin and distort God’s original design. The consequence of sin is separation from God in this life, and for all eternity. “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

We Searched: Living life on our own does not work. When we realize life is not working on our own, we begin to look alternative approaches. We tend to go in any number of directions trying different things to figure it out on our own. “They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served something created instead of the Creator” (Romans 1:25).

INCARNATION AND RE-CREATION

God Initiated: Because of His love, God had a plan to win all creation back from rebellion. Through a chosen people (Jews), God revealed His plan to win back what was lost in our rebellion. He sent His Son Jesus, God in human flesh (incarnation), to live a perfect life according to God’s design. Jesus came to rescue all creation (re-creation), doing what we could not do for ourselves. He paid the penalty for sin by His sacrificial death, restoring our relationship with God. Jesus was then raised from the dead, proving His authority to give eternal life. “For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son” (John 3:16).

We Respond: We agree with His truth and turn away from our former life. By admitting our sinful brokenness, we stop trusting ourselves and ask God to forgive us. We turn from sin (repent) and trust only in Jesus (believe), receiving new life, a new way of living, and a new community of fellow followers of Jesus. “For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is

not from yourself; it is God's gift, not from works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

God Transforms: God changes us from the inside to be more like Jesus. As we get to know God better through the Bible and His people (the Church), He empowers us to follow His design for life, assures us of His presence, and gives us hope for eternity to come. "For it is God who is working in you, enabling you both to desire and to work out His good purpose" (Philippians 2:13).

We Represent: We are the continuation of Jesus' work on the earth. Those who follow Jesus are assigned to continue Jesus' good works as His ambassadors in the world. We love and serve others, and invite them to join His story of creation, incarnation, and re-creation. "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:20).

You Decide: If you want to join His Story through Christ, all you need to do is ask. "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13). You can talk to Him using words like these: "My life is broken and I recognize it is because of my sin. I need you. I believe Jesus came to live, die, and rise from the dead to rescue me from my sin and make me His ambassador. Forgive me. I turn from my selfish ways and put my trust in you. I know that Jesus is God, and I will follow Him."

If you have responded to God's invitation to follow Jesus, the next step is to get to know Him better by studying the Bible so you can obey His teachings, join in regular relationship with His followers, and share what you discover with others.