

4. Finally, let's take a look at 1 John 4:13-17.

- According to John, how are we to follow Jesus?
- What have you "come to know and to believe" about the love of Jesus?

WITH PRACTICE:

Jesus gave us the gift of clarity. In a world full of confusion, He is the way. Therefore, *we are people who follow Jesus*. 1 Peter 3:15 encourages those who are excited about Jesus to *always* be ready to speak about the hope we have.

If we follow and are excited about Jesus, we will naturally share him with other people. Part of our mission is to learn how to share Jesus well with other people in a way that both exudes our excitement and piques their interest in him.

Pick a group member and practice sharing the hope you have by answering the following questions:

- What do you know is the good news of Jesus?
- Why do you believe it?
- How does this good news change the way you live?

For Further Reflection . . .

Watch the [Bible Project "Son of Man"](#)

R. Kent Hughes (pastor and theologian) explains that following Jesus can fall into three broad categories:

- **Heart:** focuses on how we LIVE like Jesus. This is where our inner reality changes and is transformed to be more like Jesus.
- **Hands:** focuses on how we LOVE others like Jesus. This is where we demonstrate love by serving people and places around us.
- **Head:** focuses on how we KNOW Jesus. This is where we study, learn, and apply His Word and Teachings.

What needs to shift to make you a more effective influence for Jesus?

- Is it your *Heart*? Do you need to confess sin or need to receive healing or ask for forgiveness for something you've done?
- Is it your *Hands*? Do you need to commit to simple but profound outward actions that move you toward active serving?
- Is it your *Head*? Do you need to establish a daily rhythm in the Word and Jesus' teachings?
- Is it a combination of all three?

 WEEK #5

We Follow Jesus



Leader's Corner

As we refocus on our vision “Love My Community,” we continue to be reminded about what it means to live in community and on mission. This week’s resource focuses us on the following:

Main Idea: We are people who follow Jesus.

Main Practice: Learn and live the ways of Jesus.

Main Teaching: John 14:1-14 - Jesus is the centerpiece of our community and mission.

Before your group gathers this week, prepare your own heart by reading Psalm 145. Allow this passage to remind you the truth about Jesus. Start the gathering time in the following way:

- Take a few minutes and talk through logistics for the mission your group has chosen to serve.
- The small groups team is here for you. As you encounter questions or obstacles with serving as a group, please let us know and we can help. Please contact the small group staff (smallgroups@eastview.church)
- When your group goes to serve and partner with the mission you’ve chosen, please take a picture and send it to smallgroups@eastview.church.

As We Begin . . .

- Share something you were thankful for from this past week.
- Share about the first time you noticed Jesus’ presence in your life.

Love My Community . . .

WITH PRAYER:

Have someone read this prayer over the group:

“Jesus, we need you. You do things far better than we ever can.

You make everything better. We place our trust in you, in your life, in your death, and in your resurrection. Thank you for what you’ve done, what you are doing, and for what you will do. Grant us courage to know and believe your good news. Help us to live as though we truly follow you and nothing else. Amen.”

WITH PRINCIPLE:

“But in your hearts set Christ apart (as holy - acknowledging Him, giving Him first place in your lives) as Lord.”

1 Peter 3:15a

There are a number of reasons why we study about and follow Jesus. It might sound elementary and yet still palpable that Jesus himself indicated this as a requirement to follow him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (Matthew 22:37).” This command certainly comes from a place of love and grace and with intention for you and me to grow and foster an intimate relationship with him. But his teachings also prove essential for us to live out his commission. Michael Frost states this well, “We need to know him (Jesus) if we’re going to share him as the reason for the hope we have.”

The problem is that we can all too easily be enamored with learning more knowledge about him rather than truly knowing him in relationship. Even more tempting is lumping Jesus in with other things in this world that we desire. Jesus spent so much time teaching and refocusing his followers on the mission of the Kingdom. In order for us to effectively live in community and on mission, we need to follow Jesus.

1. Read John 14:1-14 as a group in the Amplified Version.

- What human experiences and emotions is Jesus addressing with his disciples?
- What assurances does he provide for them?
- How can you relate to these reassurances from Jesus?
- Summarize John 14:6 in your own words.

2. Next, read 1 John 2:3-6.

- How do we know someone who follows Jesus?
- Think of someone you respect as a mature follower of Jesus. How do they walk with Jesus?

3. Our hearts are experiencing a constant spiritual battle that wages war for our attention and affections. Read 1 John 2:15-17

John lists three categories of enticing worldly sin. Take some time to write out specific things in each category.

- Lust of the flesh: these are things that entice our bodies (fleshly pleasures)
- Lust of the eyes: these are things that entice our desires (treasures, riches, possessions, etc)
- Lust of the pride of life: these are things that entice our personality (ambition, power, prestige, status, applause, etc)