



{INVITATIONS}

HOPE

Christ Followers

John 17:1-11; Acts 1:6-14

GETTING STARTED

Are the best days of your life: Behind you, now, or to come?

Why?

READ and REFLECT

Read the Bible passages above.

What do we learn about Jesus in John 17:1-5?

What does Jesus pray for in John 17:6-11?

In Acts 1:6, what are the disciples looking for? How does this miss the mark of Jesus' intentions?

What defined this early Christian community (see also Acts 2:42-47)?

What is the difference between a *Christian* (commonly understood) and a *Christ Follower*?

ENGAGE and DISCUSS

Respond to the following questions and excerpts from the weekend sermon below.

What have been the consequences and changes in your life since becoming a Christ Follower?

RESPOND: "If you and I would be Christ Followers like the original ones there is something very hard we must do. We have to repent of the notion that Jesus cares in any way about our little kingdoms, except to the extent that they are submitted in service to His. Now don't get me wrong here: Jesus makes it clear that he cares for his people's welfare with the heart of a Good Shepherd. He lays down his own life for his sheep. He promises riches in heaven and tremendous grace, peace, and joy to all who follow Him here. But when the first disciples asked him about when he planned to restore their kingdom, the answer Jesus gives is very telling. He immediately refocuses them on his Kingdom."

RESPOND: "My point here is that there was a time when people heard the word "Church" and the first thought that came to their minds was not a big fixed building but a beautiful moving people – a people who believed that the days of Jesus were not past, but that Christ was alive and moving through them now; who sought no kingdom of their own but that share they had in Christ's; a people who gathered regularly together in prayer so as to be better equipped to go out regularly together as witnesses. And in this gathering and going, Jesus moved through them to change hearts, households, villages, cities, regions, the empire itself and then the world."

What is the most challenging for the church to live as Christ Follower? How about for you or your family?

NEXT STEPS

- Reflect on the verses for this study this week.
- What is one way you have been challenged to rethink and relive your life as a Christ Follower?