

**Foundations (1 of 4)**  
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

**Sunday, January 16th 2022**



**Sermon Series Focus:** *Foundations* is a 4-week sermon series that calls us to address the spiritual foundations of our life in Christ. We will see how the gospel challenges us to commit to following Jesus together, which involves regular rhythms of prayer, reading Scripture, and deepening relationships.

**Sermon Title:** The Call to Discipleship

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 9:23-25, 57-62

**Sermon Focus:** As we begin a new series that seeks to address the spiritual foundations of our life in Christ, we're challenged to respond to the call of Jesus: "Follow me!" But when Jesus calls us to be his disciples, it's a bid (as Dietrich Bonhoeffer states) to "come and die." The grace that Jesus extends to us isn't meant to be an add-on to our lives, but an invitation to lay our lives down. And in so doing, to find true life in him.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. What kind of voices do you or people you know hear calling out to 'follow them'? What is compelling about these invitations?
2. Read Luke 9:57-62 together. What is different about Jesus' response to each of the three people? What does it look like to put Christ first in your life? Why can this be so hard?
3. Read Luke 9:23-25 together. What does Jesus mean when he says that his followers must "deny themselves and take up their cross"? What is an area in your life where God might be calling you to submit to him and die to your own desires or ambitions?
4. Melissa suggested that what enables us to respond to Jesus' call to follow him is being re-captivated by the reality that he already laid his life down for us and pours out his grace to us. Is there something in your life that makes this hard to believe? What might help you be newly captivated by Christ's pursuit of you?
5. Based on the truths in this passage, how might you lovingly respond to someone who says they are interested in following Jesus, but says that they can pursue it later?
6. Imagine a friend with whom you have a good relationship is expressing how they want to be a better person this year (maybe love their family better or do more charity work, get healthier or work harder at their job). How would the idea of submitting to the authority of Christ and taking on the sense of self that he gives be encouraging or hopeful for that friend? What do you imagine a conversation like this could look like?