

Small Group Discussion Questions

"Follower or Fan?" Pastor Scott Farmer November 16/17, 2013

In every relationship comes the DTR moment. In our text, Jesus calls us to "Define the Relationship."

Are we Followers or just Fans? "Followers" become like the one they follow. They do what he does. Walk in his steps.

"Fans" are enthusiastic admirers – with no commitment to exert any effort, or even ambition to become like the ones they cheer. [Except for wearing the same jersey, cap, or show up to a game with face smeared in team colors.]

The challenge and warning of followers devolving into fans was important in the late first century church to which John originally wrote and to the 21st century church in which we live.

<u>Warm it Up</u>

Of what or who are you a fan – an enthusiastic admirer – but have little or no ambition to actually become like? [Aw, come on, we are all fans of something!]

<u>Talk it Over</u>

Read John 6:54-57, 60-71

- 1] To many disciples, the teaching in vv. 54-57 was hard and offensive [v. 60-61] and they turned from followers to ex-fans!
 - a] How do you understand that passage?
 - b] Is it hard and offensive to you?

- 2] Jesus responds by offering at least four reasons to be attracted to follow Him in vv. 62-68. How do you understand each of these reasons to be attracted:
 - a] "Son of Man will ascend to where He was before" [v. 62].
 - b] "The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are full of the Spirit and life." [v. 63]
 - c] "No one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them." [v. 65]
 - d] "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God." [Vv. 68-69]
- 3] Both Peter and Judas were members of Jesus' inner circle, part of the Twelve, at the core of the church. What do the two men have in common? What is different about them?

<u>Work it Through</u>

- 4] As many disciples got to know Jesus better, they didn't like what they saw and lost interest in following Him [v. 66]. Certainly Judas is in this group. Though he stayed very involved with Jesus and the church [he was treasurer of the Twelve]! When are you tempted to join that group?
- 5] What motivates you to follow Jesus instead?

6] Scott used the illustration of Google Maps, urging us to Start from your *Current Location*" to get to our destination of *Home*. The map makes a route from wherever we start.

Our destination is *Home* with the Father. Our *route* is follow Jesus. Do not wait to get your act together before deciding to follow Jesus. Start here. Start now. Under *Get Directions*, what is your next turn or next step? What will you Stop? Start? How will it shape your schedule? Relationships? Money?

<u>Weekly Devotional</u>

What was one daily devotional that helped you discover some new things about Jesus, about yourself, and inspired you to grow deeper into your relationship with Christ?

<u>Pray it Through</u>

Thank your Father in heaven for enabling you to come to Jesus, experience His Spirit, life eternal, and victory over sin and death! Ask Him to turn you daily from a fan to a fully devoted follower of our Savior!