

## What it Means to Follow Jesus – Part 1 **WE ARE DISCIPLES**

"As Jesus was going down the road, he saw Matthew sitting at his tax-collection booth. 'COME, BE MY DISCIPLE!,' Jesus said. So Matthew got up and followed him." Matt. 9:9 (NLT)

TO BE A DISCIPLE...

### **1. I MUST SPEND TIME WITH JESUS**

"IF YOU WANT to be my disciple you must come and follow me, because my servants MUST BE WHERE I AM. And if they follow me, the Father will honor them." John 12:26 (NLT)

### *3 FACTS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GROWTH*

Spiritual Growth is a Choice

Spiritual Growth is a Commitment

Spiritual Growth is a Relationship

"The plan was that they would BE WITH HIM and then he would send them out to proclaim the Word." Mark 3:14b (MSG)

### **2. I MUST LOVE JESUS SUPREMELY**

"IF you want to be my follower you must love me more than your own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, more than your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:26 (LB)

SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS MEASURED BY LOVE!

"The most important commandment is this... You must love the Lord your God with ALL your heart, ALL your soul, ALL your mind, and ALL your strength." Mark 12:29-30 (NLT)

### **3. I MUST LOVE EVERY OTHER DISCIPLE**

"IF you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples." John 13:35 (TEV)

SPIRITUAL GROWTH HAPPENS IN COMMUNITY

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers." 1 John 3:16 (NIV)

### **4. I MUST SERVE OTHERS UNSELFISHLY**

"IF anyone wants to be my disciple, he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24 (LB)

### **5. I MUST PASS ON THE GOOD NEWS**

"Jesus called out to them, 'Come, be my disciples, and I will show you how to fish for people!' And they left their nets at once and went with him." Matthew 4:20 (LB)

"Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. And teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you; and be sure of this -- I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matt. 28:19-20 (NLT)