

## Discussion Guide

Date: 1/25/2026

Sermon Title: How do I do as Jesus did?

Scripture: 1 John 2:3-6

This discussion guide is a layout to be used with a group or class. We have included opening and closing prayers to start and end your group. The guide may be used for personal or family reflection as well.

### OPENING PRAYER

*Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for the gift of community and for the call to follow your Son, Jesus Christ. As we gather, open our hearts and minds to your Spirit. Help us not only to hear your Word but to live it, to walk as Jesus walked, to love as Jesus loved, and to serve as Jesus served. Shape us into people whose lives reflect your grace and truth. We offer this time to you, trusting that you are at work among us. Amen.*

### Opening Question:

1. Share a time when someone's actions spoke louder than their words—either positively or negatively. How did that impact you?

### Focus for the week:

This week we explore what it means to live a faith that looks like Jesus; a faith expressed through love, service, mercy, and obedience. Following Jesus is not only about what we believe, but how we live, love, and show up in the world.

### Digging into the Word:

Read 1 John 2:3-6 (NRSV) aloud slowly. You may choose to read it twice, allowing a brief moment of silence after each reading.

1. According to 1 John 2:3–6, how do we know that we truly know Christ?
2. What do you notice about the connection between knowing, abiding, and doing in this passage?
3. Where do you see obedience as an expression of love rather than obligation from this text?
4. John draws a sharp contrast between *saying* we know Christ and *living* in obedience. Why do you think this distinction mattered so much to the early church? Where do you see this tension today; in the church or in your own life? How might this passage challenge a faith that is only intellectual or cultural?
5. What does the word abide suggest about the pace and posture of following Jesus?
6. What practices help you remain rooted in Christ rather than drifting into distraction or self-reliance? How does abiding in Christ shape the way we act when life is difficult or uncertain?
7. John uses the image of walking a steady, everyday movement. How does this shape our understanding of discipleship? What are the “ordinary places” where Jesus invites you to walk as he walked? How do

small, faithful choices form us over time?

**Other scriptures to consider:**

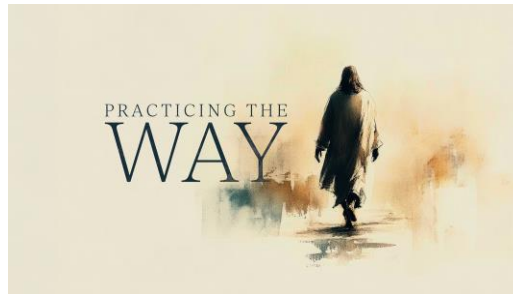
John 15:4–5; Micah 6:8;

**Sermon Questions:**

1. The sermon mentions Gandhi's critique: "I like your Jesus, I don't like your Christians." Why do you think there's often a disconnect between what Christians believe and how they live? Have you ever felt this tension in your own life?
2. The quote from Dr. Holmes "you got to stop talking the talk and start walking the walk" what are your thoughts, feelings, and response to this quote? Do you agree? Is it easy?
3. Pastor Clayton mentions that John Mark Comer reframes WWJD as 'What would Jesus do if he were me?' How does this personalized question change the way you approach ethical decisions in your unique context and circumstances?
4. In the sermon we are reminded of the things Jesus' values: spending time with God, caring for others, healing, proclaiming good news, forgiving sins, and including outcasts. Which of these values comes most naturally to you? Which is most challenging for you to live out? Share a specific example of when you aligned (or struggled to align) with one of these values.
5. Pastor Clayton mentions that sometime people perceive "the church is more concerned with what's going on inside the church than outside the church." Do you agree or disagree? How can we as a small group look beyond our walls to serve our community?
6. Pastor Clayton preached on the second important thing in doing as Jesus did comes from James which defines "pure and undefiled religion" as caring for widows and orphans and the most vulnerable.
  - a. Who are the "widows and orphans" (the most vulnerable) in our community today?
  - b. How is our church walking the walk in caring for them?
  - c. How are you personally caring for the vulnerable?
7. Pastor Clayton challenges us about the least and vulnerable in our community. That the bible is clear about how we are to treat the immigrant. What are your thoughts and where may you need to walk as Jesus did in caring for the vulnerable?
8. How do we consistently live in our faith when we face trials? Pastor Clayton shares we have a choice to walk away from our faith, or we can lean into our faith. Do you have an example of leaning in through hard times? Explain.

**Applying it:**

1. How does practicing the way of Jesus together in community help us live more faithfully? What is one small, concrete practice you could take up this week to do as Jesus did? An act of service? A step toward reconciliation? A practice of generosity or hospitality?
2. Who in your life or in the wider community might God be inviting you to love more intentionally right now? Who are the vulnerable amongst you that God maybe asking you to care?
3. When you think of Jesus' life and ministry, what practices or actions stand out most to you?



4. When it comes to facing trials, who in your life models this kind of faith through suffering? What have you learned from watching them walk through trials?
5. What does it practically look like to “walk as Jesus walked” in today’s world, at home, work, school, or in the community? Where do you find this easy? Where is it challenging?

#### **A Practice:**

Name one intentional way you will seek to love or serve like Jesus this week. Keep it simple, faithful, and doable.

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

*Loving God, we thank you for Jesus Christ, whose life shows us what love looks like in action. As we go from this place, send us out to walk as he walked; to serve with humility, to love with compassion, and to live with courage. Empower us by your Holy Spirit to be doers of your Word, bearing witness to your grace in all that we say and do. May our lives point others to your love made known in Christ. Amen.*

#### **WAYS TO RESPOND**

Choose one or more of the following practices this week.

1. Write down an inventory of your values? Which ones align with the way of Jesus? Which one do not? Pick one area to focus on this week to improve and share your goal with one person for accountability.
2. Identify one vulnerable person or group in your community and take one concrete action to care for them this week. This could be: volunteering, donating, advocating, visiting, or simply listening
3. If you're currently facing a trial, identify one way you can lean into faith rather than away from it. If you're not, reach out to someone who is going through something difficult and walk with them
4. Each day this week, face one decision by asking: "What would Jesus do if He were me?" Journal about what you discover. Share your insights with the group next time