



What's Your Excuse? - Week 2

"When life is hard, that's when you truly need to follow Jesus."

Icebreaker: Share a funny or chaotic pet story that you can relate to the opening story about Oliver the puppy.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Reflect on Life's Challenges: The sermon highlighted how life can be difficult and full of unexpected challenges. How do you usually respond to life's "puppy moments," and what role does your faith play in those situations?
2. Excuses vs. Intentions: Kevin Syes mentioned that everyone has good intentions to follow Jesus, but excuses often get in the way. Can you identify a time when an excuse prevented you from taking a step in your faith? What could you do differently next time?
3. Scriptural Insight: In Luke 9:57-62, Jesus responds to potential followers with seemingly harsh words. How do you interpret Jesus' responses, and what do they teach us about the cost of discipleship?
4. Prioritizing Faith: The sermon discussed the importance of prioritizing following Jesus, even when life is hard. How can we reorder our priorities to ensure that following Jesus remains at the forefront of our lives?
5. Jesus is Worth It: Reflect on the statement "Jesus is worth it," especially during hard times. How can this perspective change the way we approach our daily lives and challenges?
6. Call to Action: What is one step you feel God is calling you to take this week? How can you overcome any excuses you might have to delay taking this step?
7. Call to Action: What specific step will you commit to taking this week to move past excuses and follow Jesus more closely? How can the group support you in this commitment?



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Scripture Exploration

- Read Luke 9:57-62. What are the immediate reactions of the individuals Jesus encounters, and how do they justify their responses to His call?
- How does Jesus' response to the individual who wants to bury his father challenge your understanding of discipleship?
- What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God"?

Personal Reflection

- Consider the excuses made by biblical figures when called by God (e.g., Moses in Exodus 3:11, Jeremiah in Jeremiah 1:6). How do these compare to your own reasons for hesitating to follow Jesus?
- Reflect on the principle that "hard moments provide easy excuses." How does this principle manifest in your life?

Personal Application

- Identify one area in your life where you feel God is calling you to take a step forward. What is holding you back, and how can you overcome this barrier?
- How can you prioritize your relationship with Jesus in the midst of life's busyness this week?
- Plan a specific action you will take this week to follow Jesus more closely, whether it be through prayer, service, or community involvement.