

Family Ministry Life Group Curriculum

NOVEMBER 2025 - Committed Week 1

In your meetings this month, you'll be using a discussion guide based on Eric Idleman's book "Not a Fan." You do not need the book for any part of the discussion guide, but it's a great read and your group might want to get into it more on their own or after our Pathways Family Ministry Study is over in 2026.

This discussion guide can also be found on www.tsf-church.com.

Please follow this discussion guide so your group can get the most out of the session each time you meet!

"Not a Fan"
Kyle Idleman

WEEK 1-

Fan or follower?

1- At initial glance, what are the differences between being a fan or being a follower? Think in terms of sports, social media, or a teacher/mentor and how those words might apply and change in any given setting. Discuss in the group.

READ LUKE 9:18-25 TOGETHER

2- What immediately stands out to you in this passage?

3- Follow the progression of the story and discuss as follows:

First, in vv. 18-21, Jesus is recognized as the Christ or Messiah of God. In another Gospel, Peter's confession includes the title, "Son of God."

Next, in v.22, Jesus reveals that even though He is the Christ, or actually because He is the Christ, He will suffer, die, and then rise again. If He is the anointed of God, why must He die?

Finally, in vv.23-25, He tells his followers that they must die as well, die to themselves. But if they do, they too will be raised, their lives will be saved. Jesus adds, "If anyone tries to save his life, he will lose it." Why is this so? How does trying to save one's life lead to losing one's life?

4- How would you define what regularly happens between you and Jesus? What is that dynamic like? Is it fandom? Follow-ship? Something else?

5- What has following Jesus cost you?

Do you feel like Jesus has tested your relationship with him? If so, how? In what area (s)?

If he were to test your relationship to Him these days, what might be a likely area?

6- What would need to change so that people would describe you/remember you as a follower of Christ?

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WEEK 2

The next level of follow-ship

1- Read John 3:1-20.

2- Who is Nicodemus? Why does it matter what his position/role in Judaism is?

3- Why does Nicodemus come to Jesus at night?

4- Does Nicodemus want to be a follower of Jesus? What does this passage reveal about some of the struggles he's having as he determines whether or not to follow Jesus?

5- How much of what Nicodemus struggles with are some things that you struggle with as you think about following Jesus?

6- Read John 19:38-40. Why is it important that Nicodemus does this for Jesus' body at his burial? What might that reveal about his decision to follow Christ, and not just be a fan?

7- An author has said about Nicodemus' actions:

"This would have been an extremely expensive and costly gesture. And make no mistake; this gesture cost him more than just money. There was no longer any chance of hiding his affection..... Following Jesus isn't something you can do at night where no one notices. It's a twenty-four-hour-a-day commitment that will interfere with your life."

Are you a fan or a follower? What part of your life does not reflect what a follower does?

Here are Idleman's key questions to determine who/what you are really following:

1. For what do you sacrifice your money?
2. When you're hurt, where do you go for comfort?
3. What disappoints or frustrates you the most?
4. What is it that really gets you excited?