



# FOLLOW

## Home Group Study Guide

*A 7-Week Study Guide  
for Crofton Parish Home Groups*



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## Home Group Study Guide

In Crofton Parish in 2019, we want to be:

*'Faithful in PRAYER,  
Willing to CARE,  
Ready to SHARE.'*

This Home Group Study Guide is designed for use alongside the 'Follow' teaching series in Jan/Feb 2019. The Studies should be self-explanatory with little preparations. (For some sessions, you will need pens and paper.)

We hope you find the 'Follow' series an inspiring and helpful way to start 2019.

# Week 1

## **Follow: In 2019**

Read Mark 1.14-20

1. What struck you about what you heard on Sunday? Was there anything you didn't agree with or understand?
2. In Mark 1, we see that Jesus calls people to BELIEVE in him and FOLLOW him. Is there a difference between these two words? If so, what might the difference be?
3. What characteristics or qualities might a follower of Jesus have? Ask each group member to write down 3 answers. Then, as a group, try to reduce all your answers down to the 3 most important ones. Why did you choose those answers?
4. In 2019 at Crofton Parish, we want to be 'Faithful in Prayer, Willing to Care and Ready to Share.' Which one of these is most relevant to you this year? Why?

Finish by taking some time to pray for each other, asking the Lord to grow these qualities in us.

# Week 2

## **Follow: Run the Race**

Read Hebrews 12.1-3

1. What struck you about what you heard on Sunday? Was there anything you didn't agree with or understand?
2. Has anyone in the group ever participated in a big race of any kind? What happened?
3. In most races, the competitors race against each other. But Hebrews 12 describes following Jesus as a race 'marked out for us'; it's a more personal journey of discipleship. How would you describe the stage of the race that you are in?
4. What one or two things could your group do to help you run your race?

## Week 3

### **Follow: Prayer**

Read Philippians 1.3-11

1. What struck you about what you heard on Sunday? Was there anything you didn't agree with or understand?
2. Prayer helps us follow Jesus better. Have you ever had any notable answers to prayer or experiences of prayer?
3. Our reading is all about prayer. Reread Philippians 1.3-11 noting WHY Paul prays, HOW Paul prays and WHAT Paul prays.
4. In Philippians 1, answered prayer looks like changed lives. Which of the outcomes listed in vv9-11 do you want to see in your life too? Why? Spend some time praying for each other.

## Week 4

### **Follow: Relationships**

Read Philippians 2.1-11

1. What struck you about what you heard on Sunday? Was there anything you didn't agree with or understand?
2. On a blank sheet of paper, draw a spider diagram of your relationships (family, friends, etc). If you want to, you can show your picture to the group. Are there any relationships that are broken or painful?
3. Philippians 2 offers us the example of Jesus as a model for our relationships. This is very challenging. Reread Philippians 2.1-11, what is it about Jesus' example that Paul highlights?

Spend some time quietly reflecting on your own relationships, especially any that are broken or painful. Try to receive the Lord's grace for you and listen to his voice. What might he be saying to you?

# Week 5

## Follow: Finances

Read Philippians 4.4-20

1. What struck you about what you heard on Sunday? Was there anything you didn't agree with or understand?
2. Paul regularly talks about money with his churches. How do you find talking about finances in your group?
3. The principles of GRATITUDE and GENEROSITY shape much of both the Old Testament and New Testament's teaching on finances. Where can you see these ideas in today's reading?
4. We can only enjoy the ministry we have today because previous generations invested their time, effort and finances. As the saying goes, 'A community grows great when older people plant trees in whose shade they know they will never sit.' How can you practice the principles of gratitude and generosity in your finances?

In Crofton, we have signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme and are inviting everyone to transfer their giving to the Parish to PGS. It doesn't cost us any money and will make our financial management much easier. If you wish, you could spend some time looking at the PGS forms and filling them in.



## Week 6

### **Follow: Purpose**

Read Philippians 3.1-14

1. What struck you about what you heard on Sunday? Was there anything you didn't agree with or understand?
2. Many people worry about what they're supposed to do with their lives. How have you answered this question over the years?
3. As you reread Philippians 3.1-14, how does Paul describe his sense of purpose? Has it changed over the years?
4. List some of the 'purpose' words and phrases you've found in Philippians 3. Which ones resonate with you? Why? What could you do about it?

Spend some time praying for each other, that you may discover and know how to 'take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of you.'

## Week 7

### **Follow: For Life**

Read John 21.15-19

1. What struck you about what you heard on Sunday? Was there anything you didn't agree with or understand?
2. At one of the lowest moments of his life, Peter hears Jesus' invitation to 'follow' him anew. Have you ever experienced God's call at a low moment of your life? What happened?
3. Jesus' call to us to 'follow' is renewed at every stage of life. What 'life-stage' are you in? What does following Jesus look like in this life stage? What is the same and what's different?

Have some time in quiet. Hear again Jesus' words: 'Follow me!'. What response do these words draw out from you?





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