

Week 1 – Follower, September 29, 2024

Play Video for Week 1 Unfinished Follower. Share reflections from the video . Then, take to prayer before you begin the rest of the lesson. Watch the video at thevillagechristianchurch.com/unfinished/.

Opening Discussion Questions

1. Describe a time God called you to do something that seemed crazy or impossible for you to do.
2. As God began to work through you to do the impossible, what did you find the most surprising?
3. How did this experience prepare you for the next time God calls you to do something impossible?

Further Discussion From Scripture

Read the following Scripture passage and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to have each group member journal their answer first in the provided space before discussing together, as a means of encouraging all to participate more deeply.

GOD CALLS US TO THINGS WE CANNOT YET SEE

The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.” – Genesis 12:3

1. God called Abraham (Abram at the time) to a life he could not yet see - to a path that was “unfinished.” Have you given God a ‘blank check’ with your life? Do you allow Him to do with your life what He wishes to do? Or do you seek too much to ‘chart your own path?’
2. Where do you look in order to ensure that your path tomorrow will be ok? Family Friends? Money? Your career? Your talents and abilities? In what lies your security for the present and for the future?
3. What things prevent you from truly being able to follow where God leads? How so?

GOD DOES NOT WANT GENEROSITY FROM US. HE WANTS IT FOR US

We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News. This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.

You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.

So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. – Colossians 1:3-14

4. This step in faith for The Village is the largest thing we have ever done as a church. It is literally going to change our church, and it is a risk we are willing to take in light of God's word and God's leading. We believe that God's work in us is unfinished and He is calling us to take our relationship with Him to a new level. What would it mean for your generosity if you had a full view in mind of what it looks like to truly follow God like Abraham did and like Paul did? What would giving generously in light of that actually mean?
5. Do you feel that you have already 'arrived' in the area of generosity, or do you still have room to grow?
6. What would it look like for your journey of generosity to inspire others in a way that honors God and draws more people to Him during this UNFINISHED season? In what ways do you need to change in regard to your generosity?