**Follow me – part 1 The Great Invitation**

**1. Did you ever play a game of Simon says?** (If you’re really adventurous, try one round of Simon says). **What was one of your favorite games to play as a child?** Play a game of guess the initials.

2. There are a number of images in the Bible that talk about our relationship with God:

 **Father – child image.** 1 John 3:1 “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

 **Vine – branch image** – John 15:4 “I am the vine; you are the branches.”

 **Shepherd – sheep image** - John 10:14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me”

 **Which of these images (or a different image) speaks to you to the most about your relationship with God? Why?**

3. Read **John 10:10** and **John 17:3**. **How do these verses describe our true purpose in life? Do you feel you have abundant life? What’s missing that would make it truly abundant?**

4. **How do you understand Christianity: as a religion, a rule book, or a relationship?** (Rules don’t develop a relationship. Jesus wants a relationship with us because He loves us.) **How can you have a relationship with an invisible God?**

5. Read **Romans 2:4**. **What leads us to repentance? What motivated you to repentance? When did you first decide to follow Jesus? How did you experience Jesus’ call to follow Him?**

6. **Does being a sinner disqualify us from following Jesus?** (No, it’s a prerequisite.) **Does being an unbeliever disqualify us from following Jesus?**  (No, the disciples grew in their belief). **What’s one of the hardest things for you to believe in the Bible?**

7. **What happens when we quit actively following Jesus?** (We start evaluating/judging others). **Are you actively (or passively) following Jesus? What are you doing to actively follow Jesus?**

8. Read **Matt. 9:12**. “It’s not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.” (When it comes to sin, we’re all sick.). **Has there been a time when you remember being sick but refused to go to the doctor? Why didn’t you go? Why do people, in spite of knowing they’re spiritually sick, not go to Doctor Jesus?**

9. Read **Matt. 9:13**. Cross reference **Hosea 6:6**. **What did Jesus mean when he said: “I desire mercy, not sacrifice?”** (Seeing lost people come to God is more important than religious ritual).

10. **How has being part of a Christian community changed you?**

11. **Does the way you follow Jesus make any difference to others around you?**

Read **1 Cor. 11:1**. **Who has made the most significant impact in the way you follow Jesus?**

Pray for the people in your group, and those in your circle of influence (family, friends, coworkers) who are spiritually lost and need a relationship with Jesus Christ.