

“Follow Me”

Matthew 9:9

‘As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth.

“Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.’



Follow me: hearing the call – week 1

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10 what happened?

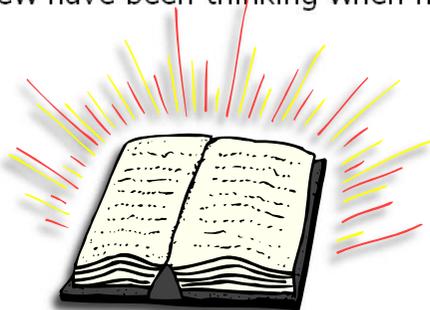
How does God speak to you? He speaks to us as individuals in ways that we can easily understand. This is a list, although not comprehensive, of some of the ways in which God can and does speak to people like you and me.

- Reading the Bible
- Gentle inaudible whisper of the Holy Spirit
- Advice from godly Counsel
- Through the words of the preacher or the testimony of a believer
- By the audible voice of God
- Dreams and Visions
- Pain, Impressions, etc.
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List some other ways that God can speak to us.

How do I know it is God? - How did Samuel know?

What could Matthew have been thinking when he got up and followed Jesus?





Follow me : Being a disciple - week 2

A pupil who submits to the process of learning under a teacher – you could say an apprentice, one who works alongside a master craftsman.

What is a disciple?

A disciple is a person who lives his life by the words of Jesus.

Following Jesus is to follow his teaching, that is to live out what he taught. We all have to make decisions about what we do and what we say, a disciple tries to do what Jesus would do and to say what Jesus would say



A disciple is a person who commits his life to the master

There is a song that has the following lyrics "Pierce my ear
O Lord my God, take me to your throne this day. For I will serve
no other God, Lord I'm here to stay".

Read Exodus 21:1-6

A disciple is a person who is committed to unconditionally and sacrificially love others

If we claim to be a disciple we must be careful about the way we live, so that we do not live as hypocrites. Read 1 John 4:20-21

A disciple is a person who is committed to work at Christ's commission

Matthew 28: 18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The word "Go" could be translated as you are on your way make disciples. Which could be paraphrased "as you journey on your way through life make disciples."



A disciple is a person who live in a fruitful relationship with Christ

Fruitful doesn't mean that you will necessarily be considered a success in the world's eyes nor does it mean that you will be healthy, wealthy or wise.

Being a disciple of Jesus Christ does mean that our life will be enriched with meaning and purpose, and that we have a capacity that most people only dream about. Being a disciple means that we have the capacity to love, to forgive and to live with a contented and peaceful heart. The reason for this capacity is that Jesus doesn't call and then leave us to live as best we can , He walks with us and guides us in our journey through life. His presence empowers us to live the Jesus way.

What are the two greatest commandments of God? (Matthew 22:37-39)

How can we love others as God commands us? (Romans 5:5)

How can we love others properly if we have not first learnt to love ourselves?



Follow Me: The call of Peter - week 3

The call of Peter is a fascinating story. Peter was the out-spoken, impulsive, irrepressible, who was first and fieriest in everything. In analysing the character of Peter, Dr. Taylor places first his transparent sincerity. You could read him at a glance. His heart was always in his countenance and on his lips. He could not be a hypocrite. He had no diplomacy about him, he never wore a mask he was genuine.

The second feature of his character was promptitude, he did at once what his hand found to do. He lost no time over deliberation, and never hesitated to say what he felt to be true, or to do what seemed to him to be right. However he did not anchor himself over his sayings, and stick to them, just to be consistent. But if he hastily uttered that which was wrong, he was as much in haste to retract it when he discovered what was really right.



Another facet of his character was courage. The group should work together to write his story in their own words. The whole group must agree the storyline that they write.

Read John 1 35-42, Mark 1:16-18, Luke 9:22-24 and any other scriptures that you may feel are helpful.



Compare the story of your meetings with Jesus and discuss the similarities



Follow Me: The call of Paul - week 4

Paul or rather Saul had been a chief persecutor of the church. He had been determined to destroy it. The word used here means to utterly sack a city, to raze it to the ground. Now his one aim, for which he was willing to give his life, was to spread that church over the whole world.

Every effect must have an adequate cause. When a man proceeding along one path suddenly turns and goes in the opposite direction, when he reverses all his values and beliefs so that he is radically changed, some explanation is required. For Paul the explanation was the direct intervention of God. Paul had the courage to recount his own story, the record of his own shame in order to show Gods power. The change was so dynamic that it needed a change of name from Saul to Paul to emphasise that he was now a new person. We have used the before, how and after method to tell the story of what had happened to so dramatically change Paul's life.



Before

Before Paul came to Christ his role in society was to destroy the church

Acts 7:58

Acts 8:1-3

Acts 9:1-2



How

Paul's conversion was based on the dramatic intervention of God . It is easy to see why Paul should write "I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."
Acts 9:4-25

After

Read Galatians 1:13-23 Paul was

Arabia - First Paul faced God and he faced himself

Damascus – Second Paul faced his mistakes

Jerusalem – Third he faced his past

Syria and Cilicia - Fourth Paul faced his future

We need to face our God and to face ourselves in His presence and spend time with him. We need to face our mistakes and make amends. We need to face the past and those who have known us. Finally, we need to face the future with the confidence of the sure foundation of a life right with God, that we may fulfil our destiny.

Paul was always ready to share his experience of God and to introduce others to Jesus.



How did you face yourself?
How did you face your mistakes?
How did you face the past?
How are you facing the future?