

THINK SMALL

WEEK TWO: LEARN – Study Guide

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Have you ever experienced being overwhelmed by a seemingly impossible task ahead of you? Maybe you have thought of writing a book, starting a business, or getting a college degree. Sometimes the enormity of it all is the only thing that stands between us and our hopes and dreams. We can want to make fitness a resolution for the New Year, but be so paralyzed by the big picture that we never get started. Likewise, it can be very intimidating when we think of a lifetime of following Jesus. I mean, after all, He is God and Creator of the universe! "What must His expectations be like?" "Am I a good learner?" "What will I have to sacrifice?" "I have such a long, long way to go." Part two of our mission statement at The Cove Church states, "Learn to follow Him." This week we are pushing through all barriers and learning more about following Jesus. And as the saying goes, "How exactly do you eat an elephant?" Think small.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Describe a time when you faced a large task, goal, or challenge. Did you see it through to completion or did you stop short? Have you learned some things since then that would have been useful at the time?

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- 2) I believe following Jesus is the greatest honor and privilege we could have, and the most fulfilled we can ever be. What is it then, exactly, that prohibits us from ardently learning all we can about this life with Christ?

Into the Bible

- 3) What are some of the basic things we can know about Christ? This is an excellent place to start, and even come back to from time to time. Knowing basic things can reassure us and keep us grounded. Answer the following questions:
- a) Who is God? **Read John 10:29-30, Colossians 2:2-3, 1 John 4:8 and Colossians 1:15-20.**
 - b) Does He love me? **Read John 3:16-17, Romans 5:8 and John 15:13.**
 - c) How do I fit in this picture? **Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-20.**
- 4) I've heard it said, "Nothing worthwhile is either quick or easy." There may be some truth to that statement. At times during our journey we face roadblocks, or at least detours. Read about some of the early days of Peter's journey. Describe Peter's learning experiences.
- a) **John 18:7-11**
 - b) **John 21:15-22**
 - c) **Matthew 14:27-31**

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- 5) We later realize that Peter learns to push through his failures. Jesus was always patient with him and never short on life examples. In regard to learning to follow, Jesus gave us a real-life example in **John 15:15**. What was it? Does it show you how we must imitate the same?

How Does This Apply?

- 6) Do you have a plan of how you are going to learn to follow Jesus? Sometimes we can focus too much on the 'what' to learn, rather than 'how' can I best learn. How did Jesus teach? What are some of the great resources we have at The Cove in learning to follow Jesus?
- 7) Six years ago my wife received a bad report from an annual physical, and it scared her. Her options were very limited: change her habits or face permanent health risks. In an attempt to avoid daily medication, she started changing her diet and eventually started exercising. Since then, many people have asked her, "How did you do it?" "What motivates you?" And every time she says the same thing, "It's still not easy, but I made a lifestyle change." **Read Mark 10:17-22**. Why did the man who fell before Jesus go away sad? Do you think the gentleman desired instant gratification rather than a lifestyle change? How about you?

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Current Prayer Focus

What we're praying for together as a church:

- Neighborhood Campuses
- Building for the Statesville Campus
- New Leaders at The Cove

Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

- 8) We have established that as we dedicate ourselves to a lifestyle of following Christ, learning to follow Him becomes a part of who we are rather than any particular thing we can perform. We are only really learning to be in relationship. What then are some traits of a person learning a lifestyle of following Jesus? What is the difference between a believer and a disciple? **Read John 13:13-17, John 13:34-35, Acts 8:9-21 and John 15:1-5.**