



## PART 1: An Unexpected Invitation

### INTRODUCTION

Invitations are powerful. They come in all shapes and sizes—weddings, graduations, parties. The list goes on and on. It's nice to receive an invitation to any event. Even if you choose not to attend, the sender thought enough of you to ask. Jesus extended the invitation of a lifetime to a few men who left everything to become his followers. This may seem crazy until you realize how special Jesus' invitation was.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the best invitation you've ever received? What made it valuable? How did you respond?
2. Becoming a Rabbi in the first century was the equivalent of getting a Harvard or MIT education today. Share some of the life goals your parents had for you growing up. Were you able to measure up? Have you passed those expectations on to others?
3. Read Mark 10:17-23. Why is it difficult for some to receive Jesus' invitation to follow him?
4. What does it cost in our current culture to be a follower of Jesus? What might a modern day disciple have to "drop" socially, politically, or personally?
5. If you are a follower of Jesus, has it been worth it? If you are not a follower, what is keeping you from receiving Jesus' invitation?

### MOVING FORWARD

Jesus has extended an invitation to you to follow him. It is an invitation to stop running and stop trying to measure up. It's an invitation for rest, peace, and hope. All you have to do is accept his invitation to follow.

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.*

**Matthew 4:18-22**