



FOLLOWING JESUS

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 9 – NO EXCUSES

²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.

– Matthew 10:2-4 NIV

OBSERVATIONS

- Jesus _____ a _____ of people to follow Him
- Jesus was more concerned about His _____ than _____
- Jesus knew that His followers could _____ in spite of _____ that _____

³⁶“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment.

³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

– Matthew 22:36-40 NIV

³⁴“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”

– John 13:34-35 NIV

BIG IDEA:

_____ | _____ | _____

[illegible]

1. Why do politics cause such divisions between people?
2. Why are political ads, speeches, and communication built around fear and division?
3. What were the differences between a tax collector (Matthew) and a Zealot (Simon)?
4. Why is it notable that Jesus called two people to follow Him who were on opposite sides of the politics of their day?
5. What might this teach us about how we should engage people with different political perspectives than us?
6. Why did Jesus intentionally invite such different types of people to follow Him?
7. What was more important to Jesus than the potential tension that such differences might have caused?
8. How can followers of Jesus unite in spite of the human differences that divide us?
9. What did Jesus say are the greatest commandments of all (Matthew 22:36-40)? How are these two commandments connected to one another?
10. How might the Greatest Commandments affect our approach to disagreements with other people?
11. How did Jesus love His disciples? Based upon this, what did Jesus say would be the New Commandment (John 13:34-35)?
12. How might the New Commandment affect our approach to disagreements with other followers of Jesus?
13. How did Jesus say everyone will know we are His disciples?
14. Why is this important?
15. Why are there no excuses for choosing not to love others?
16. What are some ways that you can show love to those with whom you disagree politically?