

Next Steps

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

No one stumbles into discipleship or accidentally begins to follow Jesus better. NEXT STEPS outlines the priorities and strategies of The Hills Church to help make and grow followers of Jesus. What's your next step?

1 The Bible is stunningly silent regarding the physical appearance of Jesus. Isaiah simply says, *“He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.”* (Isaiah 53:2) Do you think there is a purpose for that omission?

2 **“FOLLOW ME” is more than “accept me.”** The Hills Church exists to make and grow followers of Jesus. However, the word “follow” has been emptied of much of its impact in our culture. **Read Mark 1:16-20.** What do you think Jesus meant by “follow me” and how does that differ from “Cultural Christianity”?

3 We live in a culture where you can be a Christian without actually having to do what Jesus says. The destination for a follower is Christ-likeness, yet transformation is not expected in many churches. In what ways is this true and why do you think this is so?

4 FOLLOWERS MAKE imitation their destination. Following is not getting Jesus *into our lives*; it is getting *into Jesus' life*. Our destination is to think, act, and love like Jesus. **Read Romans 8:28-30.** God is dedicated to our transformation into the image of Jesus. Share a time when God brought good out of a tough situation to make you more Christ-like.

5 FOLLOWING MEANS taking intentional steps. No one stumbles into the likeness of Jesus. It must be intentionally pursued. In his book, *Renovation of the Heart*, Dallas Willard says that *“spiritual formation for the Christian basically refers to the Spirit-driven process of forming the inner world of the human self in such a way that it becomes like the inner being of Christ himself.”* With that in mind, what role does the Holy Spirit play in the process, and what role must we play?

6 Rick mentioned that going forward our church would be less focused on programs and more focused on process in order to make and grow followers of Jesus. The agenda will be to help people **“take the next step”** on a path that will help them think, act, and love more like Jesus. How might this be different from the way you've known church in the past?

7 You cannot stay still and stay close to Jesus... Read 1 John 2:6. Everyone has a NEXT STEP to take whether it's your first or one of many. We believe there are seven primary steps to a growing follower of Jesus: **Worship Regularly, Connect with God, Live Differently, Do Life Together, Give Generously, Serve Others, and Tell Your One.** As you reflect on those seven, what is your NEXT STEP and what can you do today to move in that direction?

