

Think It Over: This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- Why do kids love to play follow the leader? What does playing follow the leader teach kids? Why does it begin to lose its appeal? What keeps it exciting for kids? Do teenagers and adults usually like to play follow the leader? Where did your answer come from? Why does it become harder to follow leader? What is needed for a leader to be followed? How does that translate to a Christ-follower's relationship with God?
- Read 1 Samuel 13:1-15. Review the ➤ *You can't follow Christ without the challenge of trials* section. Where do you find yourself in relationship to the challenge of a trial? If you are facing a trail, how would characterize it? What are the ways a person can prepare and brace for one? Have you ever been a stench for the right reasons to someone? What happened? Why is it a challenge to be one? How could others support and strengthen you?
- Review the ➤ *You can't follow Christ without being confronted with the temptation to give up* section. When was the last time you were confronted with the temptation to give up? Why was that? Which one of the "can be" descriptions are you dealing with most right now? What do you need to do to strengthen your resolve? Are you willing to pay the price to do that? Who could support you?
- Review the ➤ *You can't follow Christ by ignoring His directions* section. What direction are you clearly ignoring? Why is it so easy to see what Saul was ignoring, but so much harder to see when it comes to what we as Christ-followers ignore? What are some of the ways we justify ignoring? Are you identifying the consequences of ignoring? How long will it take and what will you have to lose to start over? Read Proverbs 24:16-20 TPT. Have you given up?

Next Steps: Look at the Bottom Line. How have you used following Jesus to get your own way? What has to happen for it to become more and more about His way than your way? Can you imagine what life would look like if you loved playing follow the leader with Jesus? What is stopping you?

Changing Your Mind: Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.



If you missed a message, visit www.scc.website or request a CD at Guest Services.



1 Samuel 13:1-15 NIV page 191

➤ You can't follow Christ without the challenge of trials. (1-4)

³You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. ⁴So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way. ⁵If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it.
James 1:3-5 MSG

³Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God. The best invitation we ever received!
2 Peter 1:3 MSG

When it comes to trials in our lives, everyone falls into at least one of three categories:

- You are currently in the middle of one.
- One is on the horizon that you don't know about.
- You are just walking out of one.

➤ Prepare yourself. (1-2)

¹³Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet.
Ephesians 6:13 MSG

➤ Brace yourself. (3-4)

⁴...Israel had become a stench to the Philistines... 1 Sam. 13:4 ESV

¹²Your hand-to-hand combat is not with human beings, but with the highest principalities and authorities operating in rebellion under the heavenly realms. For they are a powerful class of demon-gods and evil spirits that hold this dark world in bondage. Ephesians 6:12 TPT

☞ You can't follow Christ without being confronted

with the temptation to give up. (5-10)

➤ It can be overwhelming. (5)

⁸We have troubles all around us, but we are not defeated. We often don't know what to do, but we don't give up. ⁹We are persecuted, but God does not leave us. We are hurt sometimes, but we are not destroyed. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 ERV

➤ It can be lonely. (8-11)

¹The wicked are edgy with guilt, ready to run off even when no one's after them; Honest people are relaxed and confident, bold as lions. Proverbs 28:1 MSG

➤ It can be draining. (8)

¹⁵Hour by hour I place my days in your hand, safe from the hands out to get me. ¹⁶Warm me, your servant, with a smile; save me because you love me. Psalm 31:14-16 ESV, MSG

➤ It can be enticing. (9-10)

²⁵Being afraid of [Anxiety about] people can get you into trouble [is a trap], but if you trust the Lord, you will be safe [protected]. Proverbs 29:25 EXB (see also Psalm 56.11; 1 John 4:18)

☞ You can't follow Christ by ignoring His directions. (11-15)

²⁴"These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on... Matthew 7:24 MSG

➤ Don't justify missing the mark (11-12)

²You may believe you are doing right [Every person's path seems right/straight in their own eyes], but the Lord judges your reason [weighs your heart]. Proverbs 21:2 EXB

¹⁵You always want to look spiritual in the eyes of others, but you have forgotten the eyes of God, which see what is inside you. The very things that you approve of and applaud are the things God despises. Luke 16:15 TPT

➤ Don't dismiss the potential consequences. (13-14)

⁸The harvest you reap reveals the seed that was planted. If you plant the corrupt seeds of self-life into this natural realm, you can expect to experience a harvest of corruption. If you plant the good seeds of Spirit-life you will reap the beautiful fruits that grow from the everlasting life of the Spirit. Galatians 6:8 TPT

➤ Don't allow the fall to keep you down. (15)

¹⁶For the lovers of God may suffer adversity and stumble seven times, but they will continue to rise over and over again. But the unrighteous are brought down by just one calamity and will never be able to rise again. Proverbs 24:16-20 TPT (see also Luke 22:31-32)

Bottom Line:

Don't follow Jesus to get your way,
follow Jesus to get His way.

Resources for this message include messages by Alistair Begg, Kevin DeYoung, Ray Fowler, Summit Church, and The Village Church.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the Think It Over section below.