



# THE WAY Sermon Study Guide

## Week 12: The Way Out - Serve

Beth Jackson

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What does it really mean to follow Jesus—not just believe in him, admire him, or agree with his teachings, but to shape an entire life around his call?

This week we have the privilege of hearing from guest speaker Beth Jackson, Head of Mission Catalyst and Ordination at the BUV, as together we explore our call to be participants in God's work in the world.

### Read Matthew 4:18-22

The first disciples followed Jesus before they fully understood who he was. They hadn't heard his teaching. They hadn't seen his miracles. They certainly didn't yet understand him as Messiah. Yet something about Jesus compelled them to drop everything—their nets, boats and family ties—because following Jesus wasn't an add-on, it was a whole way of life.

Discipleship, in its simplest form, is not about having all the answers. It is about responding to Jesus' call with trust and openness.

But in a world full of distractions, it is easy for faith to become a peripheral interest rather than the center of our worldview. We are invited to look Jesus in the eye and ask if we are truly following him or just observing from a distance. Because faith grows as we walk with Him and relationship is built when we abide.

1. What do you think made Jesus' invitation so compelling for those fishermen?
2. What is one "net"—a source of security or a routine—that you find yourself clinging to when you sense Jesus calling you toward something new? What would it look like to loosen your grip on it today?



## Read John 15:1-8

In the early 18th century, a community of Christian refugees formed. They came from different denominational backgrounds and while they shared faith in Christ, their differing theological emphases and spiritual practices quickly created tension.

Their leader, Count Nicolaus Zinzendorf, watched as relationships fractured and unity eroded. Rather than giving up, he chose the slow, costly work of pastoral care—going from home to home, praying and teaching about unity. Eventually, hearts softened and the community made a profound decision: they signed a covenant committing themselves to love one another, seek God, and live in unity. It was an act of humility. And it changed everything.

Only three months later, the Holy Spirit moved powerfully among them in what would become known as the Moravian Revival. This once-divided group of 600 people became hungry for God and out of that hunger emerged a prayer meeting that began in 1727 and continued unbroken for over 100 years.

What's striking is what flowed from this life with God. Within 30 years, this small refugee community sent 200 people—one third of its population—into vocational ministry and mission, locally and globally. They didn't do this through strategic planning or guilt-driven appeals. Mission became inevitable because time with God reshaped their desires. Jesus says the same in John 15: fruit flows from abiding. When we are deeply connected to Him, service and witness follow naturally.

1. The Anabaptists, contemporaries of the Moravians, asked, “Are you following Jesus?” rather than “Are you saved?”. How does that shift the focus of faith for you?
2. How do you personally experience the connection between time with God and outward service and witness?

## Read Matthew 28:18-20 and John 20:21

To follow Jesus is to be *sent* by him. Christian mission has sometimes been expressed through harmful, coercive, or imperialistic methods. That history must be acknowledged and lamented. And yet, the call itself remains true. Every believer is called. Every believer is sent. Not all in the same way, but all as participants in God's work in the world.

Most people long for lives of purpose and significance. We want faith that is integrated, meaningful, and active in the everydayness of life. Theologian Frederick



Buechner captured this beautifully when he wrote: “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

This is not only an individual question, but a communal one that calls us to discern our deep gladness as a church community and join God in meeting the world’s deep hunger together.

1. Consider these questions individually and communally: Where do you see “deep gladness”—the gifts, passions, or experiences God has given you?
2. Where do you see “deep hunger” in your workplace, neighbourhood, or relationships?
3. Where might those two things intersect—for you personally and also for the community of believers?

## Optional Closing Reflection

Picture yourself standing on the shore, looking into the eyes of Jesus, and hearing His call: “Follow me.”

Just like the disciples. Just like the Moravians. Ordinary people. An extraordinary invitation. And a choice, still before us today. It is a call that moves people beyond comfort, beyond caution, beyond what feels sensible. But it is also a call to a life that is deeply worth living—full of hope, peace, joy, and purpose.

So, what might it look like for you to *follow* Jesus more intentionally in this season?

You may like to share your thoughts with the group and/or take note of what Jesus is saying to you in this moment and return to it in prayer throughout the week.

## Suggested Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, as we imagine ourselves on the shore, hearing you say “Follow me”, help us to respond honestly. Show us what we need to lay down, and what we are being invited to take up. Draw us closer to you, and lead us where you are already at work. Amen.