

Calling

Called to follow. Sent to shine.

LISTEN & WATCH www.BTLdiscipleship.guide/calling [QR code]

BIG IDEA	Before God calls you to do something, He calls you to Someone. Your first calling is to follow Jesus. Your everyday places are where He sends you to shine.
MEMORY VERSE	<i>"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden... In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."</i> Matthew 5:14, 16
ACTION STEP	Write your 3-minute story and tell it to one person this week.
OUTCOME	I know my first calling, I can share my story, and I have three people I'm praying for.

The Way of Jesus Read before you meet • about 5 minutes

Called in the middle of ordinary life

Jesus found His first disciples at work. Simon and Andrew were casting nets. James and John were mending them. He didn't wait for them to get cleaned up or trained. He simply said, "Come, follow Me."

Your first calling isn't a job, a role, or a ministry. It's a Person. Before you ever ask, "What should I do with my life?" Jesus asks, "Will you follow Me?" Everything else (your work, family, gifts, and dreams) flows from that yes. Your second callings are the places and people God has already given you: your home, your street, your workplace, your team, your school.

Sent to shine

Jesus doesn't say, "Try to become light." He says, "You are the light of the world." A lamp isn't lit so we can gather around it and warm our hands. It's set on a stand to give light to everyone in the house.

In an evangelism training at Colonial, Kent Mathews recalled the first thing Colonial's first youth leader, Richard Beach, told him back in 1969: *"Private Christianity is not a real thing."* If God's only plan were to secure you for heaven, He could take you home today. Instead He gave you His Spirit and left you here, on purpose, for the people around you.

Know, tell, do, and be the story

Kent sums up our part in four simple phrases:

- **Know the story.** You can't share good news you can't explain. (That's why you wrote it out in Session 1.)
- **Tell the story.** Your own story of what Jesus has done is one thing no one can argue with.
- **Do the story.** Serve, keep your word, and treat people with dignity.

- **Be the story.** Become more like Jesus, so the message and the messenger match.

Start by listening

Most people aren't won by our arguments. They're won by being heard. Kent's favorite opener works almost anywhere: *"How's your day going so far?"* Then listen. Ask a follow-up question. Let people tell you their story before you tell yours.

When You Meet about 60 minutes

Who leads: The discipler leads and models.

Connect • 10 min

- Who first showed you what following Jesus looks like? What did they do?
- How did your prayer rhythm go? Share one "God sighting."

Read • 20–25 min

Read aloud: Mark 1:14–20 and Matthew 5:13–16

1. What did the first disciples leave to follow Jesus? What might following Him cost you?
2. Jesus says, "I will make you..." Who does the making? Why does that matter?
3. Salt and light both work by contact. Where are your "places of presence," the places you are every week?
4. Is your light more "under a basket" or "on a stand" right now? Why?

Practice • 15 min

- **Draft your 3-minute story** using Tool 2: *Before* (what my life was like, or what I was looking for), *Jesus* (how I came to trust Him), and *Since* (what's different now). Then tell it to each other.
- If you came to faith as a child, tell about a season when Jesus became real to you, or what your life would be like without Him.
- **Start your BLESS list** (Tool 3): write three names of people God has put in your life who don't yet follow Jesus.

Pray & Plan • 10 min

- Pray for each other's three names, by name.
- Confirm who you'll share your story with this week.

For disciplers: Share your story first and keep it under three minutes. You're showing how short and simple it can be.

For groups: Share stories in pairs or triads, then invite one or two volunteers to tell theirs to the whole group.

Live It This week's action step

Finish your 3-minute story and tell it to one person this week. A friend, spouse, or fellow believer is a great place to start.

I'll share my story with _____

By (day) _____

Go deeper (optional): Write a two-sentence answer to "Why do you follow Jesus?" (1 Peter 3:15) and memorize it.

Pass It On within 48 hours

Ask one person Kent's question: "How's your day going so far?" Then listen. No fixing, no preaching. Ask one follow-up question.

Five Days with Jesus 10–15 minutes a day

Use **R³** each day: Read, Reflect, Respond.

☐ Day 1 • Mark 1:14–20

What might I need to leave behind to follow Jesus more fully?

☐ Day 2 • Matthew 5:13–16

Where is my "stand"? Name the places I will shine this week.

☐ Day 3 • John 4:4–26

Count Jesus' questions. What can I learn from how He listens?

☐ Day 4 • 1 Peter 3:15–16

Write my hope in Jesus in two sentences, with gentleness and respect.

☐ Day 5 • Colossians 3:17, 23–24

How can I do my ordinary work "for the Lord" today?

Awareness: Places of Presence

Each day, notice the people you'll see again: a coworker, a neighbor, a barista, a teammate. Pray silently: *"Jesus, what are You doing in their life? How can I shine here?"*

Ready to Move On?

- ☐ I can say my first calling in one sentence.
- ☐ I've written my 3-minute story and shared it with someone.
- ☐ I have three names on my BLESS list, and I'm praying for them.

When you and your discipler agree these are true, move on to the next session. If not, take another week. That's growth too.

My 3-Minute Story

Your story of what Jesus has done in your life is one of the most powerful things you can share. It isn't an argument. It's a witness. Aim for about three minutes.

Tips

- Keep the focus on Jesus, not on how good or bad you were.
- Use ordinary words. Skip church language like “saved,” “convicted,” or “washed in the blood” unless you explain it.
- Be honest about struggles that continue. You're not selling a perfect life.
- If you came to faith as a child, tell about a season when Jesus became real to you, or what your life would be like without Him.

Before

What was my life like, or what was I looking for?

Jesus

How did I come to trust Jesus? Who or what did God use?

Since

What's different now? How is He still changing me?

My hope in two sentences (1 Peter 3:15)

If someone asked, “Why do you follow Jesus?” I would say:

My BLESS List & Conversation Guide

Pray for people you already know, and look for ways to love them well. Start with three names.

Name	What I know about their life	One next step

Five BLESS practices

- **Begin with prayer.** Pray for them by name, and for an opportunity to love them.
- **Listen.** Ask a question and give time for the answer. Learn what matters to them.
- **Eat.** Share a meal or coffee. Jesus did a lot of His ministry around a table.
- **Serve.** Ask what would help, then offer a practical response.
- **Story.** When the door opens, share your story and Jesus' story, and invite a response.

Conversation tools from Kent Mathews' training

- **One question that works almost anywhere:** "How's your day going so far?" If it's good: "What's good about it?" If it's hard: "I'm sorry. What would make it better?"
- **Listen, validate, clarify.** Listen without planning your reply. Show you understand before you respond. Ask, "Am I hearing you right?"
- **Uncover their story before telling yours.** Ask about what they believe and why. People often need to hear themselves say it.
- **Gentle bridges.** "Has that made you think about the bigger questions?" "Do you have any kind of faith background?" "Would it be okay if I prayed for that?"
- **When you don't know the answer,** say so: "I don't know. Let me look into it. Could we talk again?"
- **Remember the garden.** Tilling, planting, watering, harvesting. You only need to be faithful in the stage in front of you. God gives the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Words I could use

- "Would it be helpful if I prayed for that?"

- “Would you like to hear why Jesus gives me hope?”
- “Would you be interested in reading a short part of the Bible together?”

Sources & Acknowledgment

The original pathway

This booklet adapts and substantially rewrites material from *Discipleship Pathway* (2024) by Rev. Megan Koch and Rev. Phil Wiseman of Table Church in Des Moines, Iowa, used with the authors' blessing. The original identifies its license as Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0).

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The Colonial adaptation

Prepared for Colonial Presbyterian Church by Pastor Jeff Sparks for the Be the L.I.G.H.T. Discipleship Pathway. This adaptation keeps the original ten lesson themes; adds a Launch session with a gospel foundation and a Commissioning session with a multiplication plan; restructures each lesson around a weekly meeting, one action step, and a five-day reading plan; and draws on Colonial's *Be the LIGHT Abide Guide* (P.R.A.Y., R³, BLESS, and the Abide Plan), earlier micro-course drafts, and Kent Mathews' evangelism training at Colonial (listening, validating, clarifying, and "know, tell, do, and be the story").

Also informed by

Zúme Training (the Model, Assist, Watch, Leave pattern and the emphasis on obeying and sharing between sessions); *Rooted* by Mariners Church (short daily readings and shared experiences); and *Practicing the Way* by John Mark Comer (one practice at a time, and a rule of life).

Quotations

John Mark Comer, *Live No Lies* (2021). Dallas Willard, on "pitching its message too low." Henri Nouwen, on downward mobility. Robert Louis Stevenson (attributed), on seeds and harvest. The *Didache* (early Christian teaching, 1st–2nd century), on weekly fasting.

Scripture

Scripture quotations are from the Berean Standard Bible (BSB), which is in the public domain. Read the full passages in any trustworthy translation or audio Bible.

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