

## Taking it Home

- Last week we reflected on excuses that become hurdles for declaring God's love. How has thinking about the excuses that come to mind helped you this week? Are there areas you can look back and see God working in your life to help you overcome excuses to share with others?
- Leaving the place you are most comfortable to share the love of Jesus with another is not easy. Most of us will have to prepare our hearts and then take small steps of faith. Consider memorizing 2 Corinthians 5:7 as an encouragement to take those steps.
- Reflect on those who have "looked like Jesus to you" on your journey. Maybe someone who dealt in a godly way with a difficult marriage and they came alongside you at a difficult time in your own. Possibly another parent who was dealing with a prodigal, and they were willing to share with you how they are trusting in God to work in their families' lives. Maybe that person who saw that you were trying to make life work on your own, and they told you who Jesus is and why he came – and they challenged you to know that truth for yourself!
- God wants to use you in similar ways in others' lives. Do you still have 5 people you are praying for? Will you continue to pray for that list and still others to impact as you move toward Jesus yourself? 1 Corinthians 3:6 & 7 reminds us that we might "plant or water" – but God causes the growth. Pray for opportunities to sow seeds and ask the God of the "harvest" to draw others to Himself!
- You and I are the ancestors to generations we will never see. Your legacy and mine will touch generations long after we have died. The choices we make in setting a course for our lives provide a roadmap for others to follow. When you consider the legacy you want to leave, what comes to mind first? Whose legacy are you following now?
- Think about those closest to you who are leaving a legacy you would like to imitate. What are they doing well? In what areas can you similarly walk the same path? In what ways do you hope your friends, neighbors, co-workers and family will imitate the way you are living your life?
- Will you covenant to do this? Will you choose to move toward Jesus and take others with you? Let's not settle for anything less.

Follow Me  
The Promise  
1 Corinthians 11:1

Dr. Matthew R. St. John  
Bethel Church  
November 9, 2014

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## The Promise

### Notes:

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit [pastormatthew.net](http://pastormatthew.net) and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

For more information about Growth Groups, the At Home Study Guide, and a podcast of sermons with study guide, visit [www.bethelhc.com](http://www.bethelhc.com).

# At Home Study Guide

For the week of November 9, 2014

1 Corinthians 11:1

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**Quick Review:** You have been called by God to live a life of purpose, moving toward Jesus and taking others with you. This is what it means to be Jesus' disciple. The essence of moving toward Jesus and taking others with you will include loving, abiding in, and declaring Jesus. When Jesus called the early disciples, they were willing to give up all that was important to them for the sake of following Christ. In the same way, Jesus' call is still disruptive and all consuming. When you recognize the radical love of God for you expressed through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus you can't help but want to respond to Him in love returned. Having experienced His love you want to abide in Jesus because you recognize that any spiritual fruit in your life will only come from the work of the Holy Spirit. As the fruit takes shape in your heart and you experience the joy of obedience you long for opportunities to declare the goodness of God in the person of Jesus. These values shape us as followers of Jesus. Identifying these values of loving, abiding and declaring give us a framework for imitating Jesus.

## My Story

- Do you have a story of how God has used you this week to share Jesus' love? Please share it in your group!
  
- When you were younger did you ever try to act like someone you looked up to?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What is it like for you when someone mimics your behavior because they look up to you?

## Growing Deeper

- The apostle Paul provides a strong example for us to follow if we want to move toward Jesus and take others with us. The message of 1 Corinthians 11:1 is to become like Christ by following Paul's example. 2 Peter 1:3 reminds us that God has given us "everything we need for life and godliness" – so we can rest in the equipping work of the Holy Spirit in us. This transforms us to not just "look like Jesus" – but to truly become more like Him day by day. Look up these other references about imitating followers of Jesus and summarize each:
  - 1 Corinthians 4:16; 10:33; 11:1
  
  - Philippians 2:4-5; 3:17
  
  - 1 Thessalonians 1:6 & 7 (it mentions being an "example" specifically!); 2:14-16
  
  - Hebrews 6:11-12
  
  - Romans 15:2-3
  
  - Ephesians 5:1-2
  
- Give special attention to 2 Thessalonians 3:1-15 where Paul argues that if you do not work, you do not eat. He reminds the church that he and others provided an example for them to imitate. How does 3:13 encourage you to keep imitating Christ even when it seems others don't want to join you in obedience to God? For those that have a relationship with Christ, what could be some examples of "doing good"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2 Timothy 2 provides another model where Paul exhorts the church to follow his example in teaching and living in light of the truth of Jesus. Specifically, how does 2:1-2 support the idea that we are to imitate other followers of Jesus when they are moving toward Jesus and taking others with them?