

imitator

CHOOSING TO FOLLOW GOD

This Book Belongs To

Date

Imitator: Choosing To Follow God
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step one . . .

Every journey begins with a single step. And you're about to embark upon a journey, of sorts. This journey will lead you to look at your life and faith from perspectives you might not have ever considered before.

Like all journeys, it has the potential to be an awesome experience. But a lot of the value of this experience depends on you.

Have You Prepared For The Journey?

Ask yourself: Am I in the right mindset? Is my heart prepared to hear God's voice? Am I willing to be changed? If you can't answer "yes" to these questions, this journey might not be nearly as spectacular as it could be. If you need to, take a moment and silently talk to God in prayer. Ask God to give you a heart that is open to His leading.

You're Holding Your Map.

This book you're holding is the roadmap for your journey. It will help guide your experiences. Hold on to it. Write your name and the date in the front. If this journey turns out to be as meaningful as it could potentially be, you'll want to look back and remember this time in your life.

Make An Impact, Be Impacted.

As you start your journey, keep your eyes and ears open for those valuable moments where God seems to speak to you. But don't miss the chance you have to impact your fellow travelers. And to be impacted by them. Your friends are with you in this experience. Be open to what God is doing in and through them, and how He might be using them to speak to you. And vice versa.

Your journey is beginning. Be prepared to be changed . . .

imitator

Session 1 Intro

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD . . .

IMITATOR?

Does it have a negative context? Do you think to yourself, “I’m no imitator! I’m an original.” After all, our culture values originality and independence. You might be tempted to think of an imitator as something to avoid . . .

In one way you’d be right. After all, teenagers the world over imitate the wrong people. But you don’t need to be told this. **You see it all around you.** Actors, musicians, and athletes are imitated and emulated. And in most cases, this doesn’t end well.

BEING AN IMITATOR CAN BE A BAD THING.

Or it can be the most wonderful thing there is.

BEING AN IMITATOR JUST MIGHT BE THE HIGHEST GOAL YOU CAN SEEK TO ACHIEVE. IMITATION CAN BE THE KEY TO UNLOCKING YOUR POTENTIAL AND YOUR PURPOSE.

It all depends on **Whom** you are imitating . . .

ARE YOU AN IMITATOR?

Get ready. You’re about to understand all that this question implies. And how you answer it could very well change your life.

Large group Session 1

Session Title: Be An Imitator

These two pages are designed for you to take notes during Large Group Sessions. The stuff you're learning will tend to build on itself over the next few sessions. So, even if you're not much of a note taker, you might want to at least jot down what you think is important.

Try writing down:

- Any specific teaching points
- Verse references for Scripture passages
- Quotes that make you think
- Anything you have a question about

The ***Follower Student Book*** comes with space to take notes for the Large Group Sessions.

These pages are intentionally left blank.

small group Session 1 Intro

YOU ARE CALLED TO BE AN IMITATOR.

If you've just come out of your first Large Group Session, chances are you heard this more than a couple of times.

Why is it such an important concept?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOUR LIFE? AND WHERE ELSE IN THE BIBLE DO WE SEE THIS CALL?

While these are questions you'll fully answer as you continue to progress in your journey through *Imitator*, you'll begin talking about these concepts, and more, during this first Small Group Session.

It's time to get started . . .

SESSION 7: Getting Started

Who would you imitate? Follow your leader's instructions and fill out the questions below. Then, have fun seeing who your friends would imitate!

If you could choose to live any celebrity's life (an athlete, musician, movie star, etc.), who would it be?

What is it about this person's life that would be so much fun to imitate?

What aspects of this person's life would you NOT want to imitate?

Now, let's bring it closer to home. Who is someone you know personally whose life would be fun to copy or imitate?

What is it about this person's life that is worth imitating?

Is there anything about him or her you would NOT want to imitate?



session 7: Digging In

Let's take a look through the Bible and see where else we find the call to imitate God. Work through the activity with your leader and your group, seeing just how we are called to be imitators.

BE IMITATORS OF GOD, THEREFORE, AS DEARLY LOVED CHILDREN AND LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE, JUST AS CHRIST LOVED US AND GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR US AS A FRAGRANT OFFERING AND SACRIFICE TO GOD. EPHESIANS 5:1-2

Luke 6:36 Trait:

Romans 15:7 Trait:

Ephesians 4:32 Trait:

1 Peter 1:15 Trait:

1 John 3:7 Trait:

Where do you see the language of imitation in these passages? Circle the words or phrases.

YOUR ATTITUDE SHOULD BE THE SAME AS THAT OF CHRIST JESUS; WHO, BEING IN VERY NATURE GOD, DID NOT CONSIDER EQUALITY WITH GOD SOMETHING TO BE GRASPED, BUT MADE HIMSELF NOTHING, TAKING THE VERY NATURE OF A SERVANT, BEING MADE IN HUMAN LIKENESS.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-7

YOU WERE TAUGHT, WITH REGARD TO YOUR FORMER WAY OF LIFE, TO PUT OFF YOUR OLD SELF, WHICH IS BEING CORRUPTED BY ITS DECEITFUL DESIRES; TO BE MADE NEW IN THE ATTITUDE OF YOUR MINDS; AND TO PUT ON THE NEW SELF, CREATED TO BE LIKE GOD IN TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS.

EPHESIANS 4:22-24

Session 7: Wrapping Up

Look below at the pairs of famous parents and kids. Rank your top 3 in order of which duos you think are the coolest. But be careful! You're going to have to argue why you think your favorite duo is the best.

Will and Jada Smith and Jaden Smith

Archie Manning and Peyton and Eli Manning

Ken Griffey, Sr. and Ken Griffey, Jr.

Dale Earnhardt, Sr. and Dale Earnhardt, Jr.

Jerry and Ben Stiller

Donald and Kiefer Sutherland

Billy Ray Cyrus and Miley Cyrus

Jon Voight and Angelina Jolie

What's so cool about kids following in their parent's footsteps?

How would you think a parent's success in his or her career might motivate a child?

Let's make it spiritual! When we look to God as His children, list some aspects of His character we're supposed to follow.

As God's children, how should our desire to imitate Him be influenced by our love for God as the perfect, loving Father?