

readings. I find that has been a great support in helping me read God's word regularly. And not just read it but to be open to what Jesus is seeking to say to me personally through his word. I read to hear and be guided, so that my life is walking and talking with Jesus in every area.

You could use the 'Life Transformation Group' approach. The goal is to help hold each other accountable to God. You agree on what to read from the bible; and discuss it. You then ask the accountability questions to help each other say focused. Then pray for one another. If you want an outline in the form of a book mark to help your cell work together please come and see me.

Importantly invite Jesus to show you

what activity you could do together. It could be as simple as the four of you taking a month on the church yard roster; or you might know a person who needs a hand cleaning up that you could help out as a group.

God might place on your heart to go to Myanmar and support that community. The Spirit might lead you to fund raise for the fire relief or go cut some wood for them. Jesus might have you visit one of the nursing homes together to support and encourage those who live and work there.

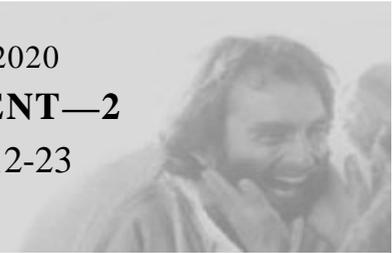
As we do together our commitment grows because it is being used. Just like muscles, life grows with use.

I invite you to take a risk and ask Jesus who he wants you to

share this year with. Grab that thought and put it into action. Jesus is say to you; 'Come follow me!'

That's what he did; found a few guys and invested himself in them. Let's be open to the Spirit have traction in our lives; four by four.

26 January 2020
COMMITMENT—2
 Matthew 4:12-23



In the month of January, as a lead into the year, I'm focusing on commitment. For without commitment you don't have a community, you don't have a disciple, you don't have friendship, you don't have love. This says to me; 'Commitment is vital'.

What was the response of Peter and Andrew when Jesus said; "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!"?

This is the call of commitment; 'Come, follow me'. Peter and Andrew were invited to invest their lives in Jesus.

A committed relationship based on Jesus personal love and affection. Jesus is living out his commitment by coming personally. I know a person is

serious when they turn up at my place and talk with me, face to face. Jesus turned up at our place and talked with us face to face; he's totally committed to us. What a wonderful foundation we have for this relationship he invites us to share, to live with him, daily.

Jesus is inviting you; 'Come, follow me!'

Jesus isn't after your left-over time. Jesus didn't say; 'Come, follow me, if you don't have anything better to do.' Jesus invitation is to risk your whole life, your whole being, trusting him. Trusting him personally in everything you do. That's commitment.

That's why I've invited you to find three other people and commit to walking together with them and Jesus through this coming

year. Commitment needs some way to find expression; otherwise it might just end up a good idea. And that isn't commitment at all. Jesus didn't give you a good idea; he gives you a good idea, daily. Daily Jesus is personally committed to living out that relationship of love and affection he died for; he rose for, he's coming back to continue living.

Jesus is inviting you; 'Come, follow me!'

This isn't simply a good idea. Jesus is actually inviting you to walk with him, to talk with him, about every aspect of your life, because he's totally committed to you and everything you do. If it's not lived out in some shape or form, it is in danger of just becoming a good idea. Like a New Year's

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
 Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

resolution; a good idea, that goes nowhere because it doesn't get lived out.

Today Jesus is inviting you; 'Come, follow me!'

One way to live this out, for this year, is to form a group of four and invest in each other. Be there for each other. Pray for each other. Find a task to do together. Invite Jesus to give you a mission to go on together. For commitment to grow, to be more than a good idea, it needs to find living expression. So I invite you as a community of faith to invest yourselves in forming teams of four.

You don't have to be literalist; five is fine, so is three. The idea is to be committed to a small group of people. You can't be personally committed to a hundred people; if for no other reason they won't fit in your kitchen!

I know some are already in home

groups; take this as an encouragement to keep it up. I know one group while still meeting regularly as a big group has also decided to have two smaller groups of four and five where they can get together more regularly between their monthly time together. I think that's great; great initiative.

Today, Jesus is inviting you; 'Come follow Me!'

Today invite Jesus to place on your heart three other people, two other people, to walk with this year. Jesus passion is that we live life together, in personal relationships. Today invite Jesus to place on your heart a person's name and then risk inviting them to join you; and don't be offended if they say no, ask someone else.

This is not some new law where by you have to do this or else. Jesus invites you to live in a committed, intimate relationship,

and it is really hard to live as part of a team on your own. Though this year Jesus might want some alone time with you; that's fine. Ask him, grab that first thought, and go for it. One thing you can be sure of, without a shadow doubt, Jesus is committed to you, 100%.

Last week, at the second service, we looked at 'Intimacy with God'. That's what commitment will grow. Here's a grab from last week (Neil Gamble – Intimacy 5)

Today I pray that you hear Jesus, if in no other way than through me, saying to you; 'Come follow me!' Come follow me, that together in this committed relationship we go out to seek and save the lost, destroying the enemies realm, declaring the Kingdom of God.

Today, I pray you hear Jesus' call; 'Come follow me!' That you invite Jesus to lead

you to a small group of people to share life with this year in a committed way, growing together in intimacy with Jesus, living out his life together.

I know some people have expressed a sense of confusion about what I'm inviting you to do with this four by four initiative. I'm a little fearful of prescribing what you're to do, because I don't want to limit God, or set up some new rules you have to follow. The goal is to give your commitment to Jesus a focus; a living expression. The goal is to help grow your commitment, to foster your commitment to Jesus as you seek to follow him.

Maybe Jesus goal is that your commitment rubs off on the three other people he brings to your mind. Or he might use them to grow you in an area of life where they have a strength. When we get together, the community of faith is

able to support and encourage one another; and we've opened ourselves up to the Spirit working though other people in our lives.

Today I'm taking a risk and going to give a few starters, ideas on what you might look at doing in your small four by four groups.

Today invite Jesus to place three people on your heart.

'Four by Four' is just an image reminding me that God wants his life to find traction in our lives, in the good, the bad and the ugly.

Here's a few thoughts on what you might start out doing.

Meet weekly, and over a cuppa ask how each other how life has been going. Then listen and let the other person talk. Then pray about the week's activities; the shopping, work, family, the tennis.

During the week you might keep a note pad and jot down thoughts, ideas, impressions you get from God as you walk and talk with him. Keep a little note pad on you, jot down those thoughts from the Spirit and share a few of them with your three mates. You can then be an encouragement for each other to step out and do what the Spirit has placed on your heart.

That's another thing; be each other's encouragers, so that you might become all that Jesus has dreamed possible. Don't let those dreams die, together fan them into flame. We all could do with some support and encouragement. Meet to be the support team.

I meet with a couple of other guys to discuss what we've been reading from the bible. Each week we follow a reading guide and then discuss what we felt God was saying to us through those