

Suggested Questions

In Luke 9 Jesus challenges would-be disciples' understanding (of discipleship), their priorities and their affections.

1. If a work colleague or friend had asked you last week, and not in the context of church, what your priorities are for 2025, what might your answer have been? Would you want to revise those priorities if answering the same question to Jesus? Would you like to revise them now?
2. Most of us struggle with balancing responsibilities to family and friends with ministry/discipleship responsibilities. "Putting God first" is not always as straightforward as it sounds, see Matt 15.3-6; 23.23-24. Do you struggle in this area, and – if so – how do you try to be a faithful disciple? (Hopefully sharing with one another will be helpful to all).
3. Jesus calls these three followers to a very literal following of him. Does he do the same for all, and the same today (given he is not on earth to follow physically)? Bear in mind that some would-be followers were told to go and do other things for him, e.g. Mark 5.19-20.
4. We are all expected to mature/grow as disciples. In what areas or ways are you praying and planning for growth this year?
5. Look at the Covenant Prayer. Which line or lines do you find most challenging?
6. Pray for one another, and please pray too for some of the things that are planned in the life of the parish this year.

Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours.

So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.