



The Life Your Chasing



BIG IDEA

We all spend our lives chasing something. Success, security, purpose, relationships, or significance. Jesus teaches that the life we've been searching for isn't found by grasping for more, but by letting go, following Him, and becoming His disciple.



ICE BREAKER

1. What's something you've worked hard to achieve that wasn't as satisfying as you expected?
2. Who has had the greatest influence on your faith journey?
3. When you hear the word "disciple," what comes to mind?



MAIN POINTS

We are all chasing something.

Solomon had access to everything people spend their lives chasing. He denied himself nothing his eyes desired, yet his conclusion in Ecclesiastes was that it was all "meaningless"—like vapor, a chasing after the wind. We are all reaching for something we think will finally give us the life we want. Shan challenged us to consider that the key to finding the life we're missing is found in the values Jesus modeled: Jesus First. People Always. Made for More.

Stay close enough to Jesus to be covered in His dust.

In the ancient Jewish world, a disciple attached his entire life to a rabbi. He walked where his rabbi walked, ate where he ate, learned his ways, and sought to become like him. The blessing, "May you be covered in the dust of your rabbi," pictured a disciple following so closely that the rabbi's dust literally covered him.

That's the invitation Jesus gives us: be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did. The question isn't simply whether we believe in Jesus, but whether we're following closely enough that His way of life is beginning to flow through ours. Are you covered in the dust of your Rabbi, and can the people around you tell?

Following Jesus means living open-handed.

Jesus tells us in Luke 9:23 to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Him. Instead of constantly grasping for more, disciples learn to live with open hands, surrendering our plans, priorities, relationships, and desires to Jesus.

And that surrender is daily. Every day we resubmit ourselves to Jesus and choose to stay close to Him. As His "dust" gets on us, His peace and joy begin showing up in us. We start treating people differently. Grace, mercy, love, and forgiveness begin flowing through our lives because we're becoming more like the One we're following.

The life you're chasing is found by following Jesus.



DISCUSS

1. What are you currently chasing that you hope will bring fulfillment or satisfaction?
2. What would it practically look like for you to be "covered in the dust of your Rabbi" this week?

	3. If someone watched your life closely, where would they see evidence that you've been with Jesus? 4. What are you holding tightly that Jesus may be asking you to surrender and hold with open hands? 5. How could following Jesus more closely change the way you show love, grace, mercy, or forgiveness to someone this week?
 NEXT STEP	Jesus First — Stay Close. Begin each morning with a daily rhythm of surrender. Before reaching for your phone or your plans, pray: <i>"Jesus, I surrender today to You. Help me stay close enough to become more like You."</i> People Always — Let His Dust Show. Identify one relationship where you can intentionally bring the character of Jesus this week. Choose grace instead of frustration, forgiveness instead of resentment, or love when it would be easier to walk away. Made for More — Live Open-Handed. Ask yourself: <i>What am I grasping for that I need to surrender?</i> Open your hands to Jesus and trust Him to guide what you do with your time, relationships, resources, and influence.
 SCRIPTURE	Luke 9:23-24
 NEXT WEEK SNEAK PEAK	This weekend kicked off our new series, The Life You're Chasing. Over the next five weeks, we'll discover what it means to live out Central's core values—Jesus First, People Always, and Made for More—in our marriages, families, workplaces, and everyday lives. Invite someone to join you and don't miss the journey ahead!

Questions or Feedback? Email Groups@CentralAZ.com