



# Adult Ministry Resource Packet User's Guide:

## *Called to Follow*

### Content Summary

The study guide, *Called to Follow*, focuses on our response to the call of Jesus Christ to all people to follow him as his disciples. The chapters of this book are based on the “baptismal covenant,” (from the Affirmation of Baptism litany in the ELW), the series of five promises (life commitments) that summarize what it means to follow Jesus Christ:

- to live among God’s faithful people;
- to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper;
- to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ through our words and deeds;
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus;
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

### Background

This book grew out of a plan by the pastor and people of Peace Lutheran Church (Charlottesville, VA) to write their own discipleship curriculum. It is book three of the series: *Going Deeper: A Journey with Jesus*. Much of the material in this series is based on sermons, course content, and devotions from a congregational study during the season of Easter in 2011, culminating on Pentecost Sunday with a congregational Affirmation of Baptism. As you read the chapters you will notice names of people who wrote particular devotions to accompany the original series. When no name appears, the section was written by the author, John Herman.

### Primary Use

This study guide is intended for use by small groups and individuals. There are six days of readings in each chapter. On the seventh day of the week, readers may choose to use the final section: *Taking It Further: Small Group and Chapter Summary Questions*.

### Possible Uses

Small groups who choose to use this resource will benefit from the small groups guidelines provided (pages 3-4) as well as the sample small group covenant (pages 5-6). How might this resource be used by groups?

- as the curriculum for new or ongoing small groups;
- as the curriculum for discipleship groups (groups of 3 or 4 who meet together weekly to walk with each other in the faith);

- as the curriculum for a new member class, baptismal class, or a catechumenate group, learning about the life of a disciple;
- as the curriculum for a confirmation class for an in-depth study of what it means to affirm one's baptism;
- as group devotional material for church councils and other groups;
- as the curriculum for Sunday morning adult forums;
- as a resource for a worship series about baptism, spiritual formation, or discipleship.

## A Worship Resource

Pastors and worship planning teams may choose to use this resource in planning a congregational study of the life commitments of the *Affirmation of Baptism*. There are a few strategic liturgical days on which to begin or conclude this study: Baptism of our Lord, Easter, Pentecost, Reformation, and All Saints. Here is a possible seven week schedule, building toward a congregation-wide Affirmation of Baptism.

Week One: Come to the Water (Chapter 1)

Week Two: Living Among God's Faithful People (Chapter 2)

Week Three: Hearing the Word of God and Sharing in the Lord's Supper (Chapters 3 & 4)

Week Four: Proclaiming the Good News through Words and Deeds (Chapter 5)

Week Five: Serving All People (Chapter 6)

Week Six: Striving for Justice and Peace in All the Earth (Chapters 7 & 8)

Week Seven: Practicing the Faith (Chapter 9); Affirmation of Baptism

This material can also be used as a shorter 5-week series, such as a midweek Lenten study, omitting weeks one and seven above.

The chapter themes also provide a resource for worship, sermon, and educational series (including hymn and music selection) about the faith practices of disciples of Jesus Christ.

## Availability and Pricing:

If a congregation wants to use this resource in some way, additional copies are available from ALOA on our website [aloaserves.org](http://aloaserves.org), by sending a check to ALOA Operations Center, PO Box 4367, Clearwater, FL 33758. The study guide book costs \$10 (plus \$3 shipping/handling). Additional books in the series, *Going Deeper: A Journey with Jesus*, are available from the author, John Herman: johndherman75@gmail.com