

Follow Me David Platt Study Guide

Follow Me: David Platt's Study Guide: A Comprehensive Overview

David Platt's "Follow Me: A Call to Die. A Call to Live." isn't just a book; it's a challenge, a roadmap, and a profound reflection on Christian discipleship. This comprehensive study guide delves into the core messages, offering practical application and resources to maximize your engagement with Platt's powerful work. We'll explore the book's key themes, including its radical call to discipleship, its emphasis on missional living, and the practical steps it provides for transformative living. This guide also addresses the common questions surrounding Platt's challenging perspectives on Western Christianity and the importance of radical obedience.

Understanding the Core Message: Radical Discipleship

Platt's "Follow Me" isn't a gentle introduction to faith; it's a clarion call to authentic discipleship. The central message revolves around the cost of following Jesus, demanding a complete surrender of self and a radical commitment to mission. He directly challenges the complacency of many Western Christians, urging a re-evaluation of priorities and a commitment to living a life wholly dedicated to God's kingdom. This study guide will help you unpack this powerful message, addressing key concepts like:

- **Cost of Discipleship:** Platt doesn't shy away from the difficult aspects of following Jesus. He confronts the reader with the potential for suffering, persecution, and sacrifice. This study guide will help you grapple with these challenging themes and understand their significance in the context of a genuine faith.
- **Missional Living:** A recurring theme is the importance of missional living – a life lived intentionally for the sake of the Gospel, taking the message of Christ to the world. This section of the study guide will explore how to practically apply this concept in your everyday life.
- **Radical Obedience:** Platt emphasizes obedience to Christ as the foundation of a fruitful Christian life. Understanding and practicing radical obedience is a crucial aspect of this book. This study guide explores methods for cultivating and maintaining obedience in our daily walk.

Practical Application: Living Out the "Follow Me" Principles

The power of "Follow Me" lies not only in its challenging message but also in its practical applications. This study guide aims to help you translate Platt's profound insights into actionable steps for daily living. This involves self-reflection, spiritual disciplines, and intentional engagement with the world.

- **Self-Examination and Spiritual Disciplines:** Platt encourages a process of deep self-reflection, examining our motivations, priorities, and commitment to Christ. This section will provide guidance on engaging in practices like prayer, Bible study, and fasting to deepen your spiritual life and increase your sensitivity to God's leading.
- **Community and Accountability:** The book emphasizes the importance of community in our journey of faith. This study guide will explore the necessity of finding accountability partners and participating in a supportive Christian community to encourage and challenge one another in pursuing a life of radical discipleship. Consider joining a small group dedicated to studying this very book for a concentrated experience.
- **Missionary Engagement:** Platt actively encourages mission work, not just financially, but through direct engagement with the unreached. This section will provide practical steps for identifying and engaging in mission opportunities, whether locally or globally. This might involve volunteering, supporting missionaries, or even considering full-time missions work.

Addressing the Criticisms and Controversies

While "Follow Me" has been widely praised, it has also faced criticism. Some argue that Platt's message is overly simplistic, culturally insensitive, or impractical for modern Western society. This study guide will address some of these critiques, providing a balanced perspective and encouraging critical thinking. Key criticisms addressed include:

- **Cultural Relativism vs. Absolute Truth:** Platt's strong emphasis on absolute truth within a context of differing cultural norms is a key point of contention. This section examines how to navigate this tension thoughtfully.
- **Practical Application in the West:** Many question the applicability of Platt's vision for developing nations to the context of modern Western life. This segment addresses this concern, exploring practical ways to apply the core principles to your specific circumstances.

Exploring the Writing Style and Key Passages

Platt's writing style is direct, passionate, and challenging. He uses powerful anecdotes and real-life examples to illustrate his points. The book is not overly academic; it's written for the everyday reader who desires a deeper understanding of Christian discipleship. Key passages worth focusing on during your study include the numerous illustrative anecdotes demonstrating the consequences of both choosing to follow Jesus faithfully and neglecting to fully commit. These can be used as springboards for personal reflection and group discussion. Using a journal to record your thoughts and reactions to specific passages is highly encouraged.

Conclusion: Embracing the Challenge of "Follow Me"

"Follow Me: A Call to Die. A Call to Live." is a challenging but ultimately rewarding read. This study guide offers a framework for engaging deeply with Platt's message, applying it practically to your life, and thoughtfully addressing its inherent controversies. Ultimately, the book compels readers toward a more intentional and radical pursuit of Christ, challenging us to move beyond complacency and embrace the transformative power of true discipleship. By examining the core messages and engaging in practical application, you can embark on a journey of spiritual growth and profound transformation.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: Is "Follow Me" only for those planning to become missionaries?

A1: No, "Follow Me" is for *every* Christian. While it highlights the importance of missions, its core message of radical discipleship applies to all believers, regardless of their career path or geographical location. The principles of self-denial, missional living, and radical obedience can be applied within any context, from the workplace to the home.

Q2: How do I reconcile Platt's challenging message with the grace of God?

A2: Platt's message is not about legalism but rather about a deep response to the grace God has already extended. The challenge to radical discipleship stems from a grateful heart overflowing with love for Christ and a desire to live a life worthy of the sacrifice He made. It is not about earning God's favor but expressing our gratitude through obedience and commitment.

Q3: What if I struggle to fully commit to the radical lifestyle Platt describes?

A3: The journey of faith is a process, not a destination. Platt's book provides a high ideal, but it's important to be gracious with ourselves and to approach this process with humility and ongoing prayer. Focusing on small, consistent steps towards obedience and seeking support from your Christian community is crucial.

Q4: How can I practically apply "Follow Me" in my everyday life?

A4: Begin by prayerfully examining your priorities and identifying areas where your life might not align with Christ's teachings. Consider making small changes – dedicating more time to prayer, giving more generously, or pursuing opportunities to serve others. Small, consistent steps can lead to significant transformation over time.

Q5: What resources are available besides this study guide to enhance my understanding of "Follow Me"?

A5: Consider joining a book study group, listening to podcasts featuring discussions of the book, or researching additional materials by David Platt or other authors who address similar themes of missional living and radical discipleship. Many online forums also provide opportunities for engaging with others studying this material.

Q6: Does Platt address specific cultural contexts beyond the Western world?

A6: While much of the book focuses on the Western church's complacency, Platt does weave in examples and anecdotes from various cultural contexts, illustrating the universal nature of discipleship and the global call to missions. Further research into the specific cultural implications within differing geographic regions may be beneficial to broaden your understanding.

Q7: How can I use this book to engage in meaningful conversations with others?

A7: Consider discussing specific passages or themes with friends, family, or within your church community. Engage in respectful dialogue, acknowledging differing perspectives, and focusing on the shared goal of seeking to follow Christ more faithfully.

Q8: What are some key differences between Platt's approach and other contemporary Christian authors?

A8: Platt's emphasis on radical discipleship and a strong call to missions differentiates him from some contemporary Christian authors who focus more on personal spiritual growth or church-centric ministry. His direct challenge to complacency in the Western church also sets him apart. Comparing and contrasting his views with other authors can offer a more nuanced understanding of contemporary Christian thought.

Unlocking Spiritual Depth: A Comprehensive Guide to "Follow Me" by David Platt

David Platt's "Follow Me" isn't just another faith-based book; it's a call to radical discipleship. This incisive examination of what it truly means to emulate Jesus questions our convenience and motivates us to reconsider our beliefs. This study guide aims to equip you to completely understand the book's core teachings and implement them into your daily life.

Part 1: Unveiling the Core Message - A Radical Redefinition of Discipleship

Platt doesn't gloss over the demands of following Christ. He argues that our interpretation of discipleship is often watered down - a faded copy of what Jesus intended. The book serves as a stark rebuke that true discipleship necessitates renunciation and commitment far beyond shallow adherence to spiritual rituals.

Platt uses the illustration of the teachings of Jesus to demonstrate the price of following him. He underscores the importance of adoring God with all your being - a love that surpasses self-interest. This radical love expresses itself in expressions of compassion toward others, particularly the poor.

Part 2: Key Themes and Practical Applications

Several recurring themes surface throughout the book:

- **The Cost of Discipleship:** Platt repeatedly underscores that following Jesus involves self-denial. This isn't a convenient journey; it's a challenging one that demands a willingness to give up worldly possessions and ambitions for the sake of the kingdom of God.
- **Global Perspective:** Platt challenges readers to widen their viewpoint beyond their local concerns. He contends that true discipleship involves a caring response to global injustice. This invites us to personally engage in ministry and defense for the oppressed.
- **Spiritual Transformation:** Platt doesn't just concentrate on visible acts; he highlights the importance of internal transformation. He motivates readers to cultivate a richer relationship with God through contemplation and the reading of scripture.

Part 3: Structuring Your Study

To optimize your grasp of "Follow Me," consider the following approaches:

1. **Individual Reading:** Dedicate a specific amount of time each month to carefully read and ponder on the passage.
2. **Journaling:** Maintain a journal to document your thoughts, reflections, and applications of the book's principles.
3. **Group Study:** Join in a small group to exchange your perspectives and learn from others.
4. **Practical Application:** Identify specific ways to integrate the principles of the book into your daily life. This might involve supporting charitable causes, proclaiming your faith, or implementing renunciations in your individual life.

Conclusion

"Follow Me" by David Platt is a powerful summons to authentic discipleship. It questions us to reconsider our understanding of what it means to follow Christ, and encourages us to live a life of uncompromising commitment. By participating with this study guide, you can deepen your understanding of Platt's message and transform your own walk with Christ.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. **Is "Follow Me" suitable for all readers?** While accessible to all, the book's challenging content might be especially impactful for those already committed to faith and seeking a deeper understanding of discipleship.
2. **What are the primary criticisms of the book?** Some critics argue that Platt's call to radical discipleship can be interpreted as overly simplistic or unrealistic in its practical application.
3. **How can I apply the book's concepts to my everyday life?** Start by reflecting on your current priorities and identifying areas where you can make sacrifices or adjustments to prioritize your relationship with God and serving others.
4. **What resources are available to supplement my study of "Follow Me"?** Many online study guides, discussion forums, and blog posts provide additional resources and insights. Consider connecting with a church community for support and accountability.

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