

A single flame flickers in a dark room.

Its brightness eats away at the shadows in the furthest corners. The dark places.

The ignored places.
That's its job.

To shine.

And you?

What is your job?

To be God's light in the dark places in our world. The ignored places. The outside places.

Be the light of the world.

BE.

But is just being really evangelism?

Yes. It's where we start.

We get so scared about what to say that we stop ourselves before we begin.

So first, be.

Be a faithful follower of Jesus.
Following Jesus can be hard. Jesus said so. In the hard places, continue to follow.
Be a light.

Be an authentic follower of Jesus.
Being a Christian doesn't mean you know everything or that you have it all together. In the confusing places, continue to seek. Be a light.

Be a faithful example of God's unconditional love.
Our world has few examples of truly selfless, unconditional love. In the hurting places, continue to love. Be a light.

Evangelism is the good and hard work of being with God.
Evangelism is the good and hard work of being with others.
Evangelism is allowing the Holy Spirit to work through me and my witness and trusting God with the results.



A pair of feet step out onto a road.

The steps fall in sync with other pairs of feet walking along. Journeying together.

Guiding, following. They are together.

Forming.

Being formed.

Learning what it means to walk together, serve together, sacrifice together, fall and get back up together.

All following the teacher.

DO.

How does the word "do" connect with discipleship?
The purpose of discipleship is for the disciple to become like the teacher.
How?

We do life together.

What we do matters.

How do we learn to rely on God more than our own resources? We live fully surrendered lives.

Laying down everything is hard. Do it anyway.

How do we learn to have compassion for those in need? We listen and hear their stories.

Listening takes time. Do it anyway.

How do we learn to love others unconditionally? We do life in community. Community is messy. Do it anyway.

Discipleship is walking the long road to becoming like Jesus.

Discipleship is walking with others to help them become like Jesus.

Discipleship is walking where Jesus goes and being formed in the process.



A towel and a basin sit on a table.
No one rushes to pick up these tools of humble service. No excitement in washing dirty feet. Cleaning grime.

That's their role.

They identify the lowest servant. Yet God himself steps forward.

The leader is to serve he says. The leader is to be the least. The leader steps forward to help.

Go and do likewise.

GO.

Can anyone just go and lead?
Leaders need to be developing along the way. Leaders should always be learning.
We can wait until we think we know enough or we can go.

To start we have to go.

God seeks humble leaders, humility is born out of a teachable spirit.

Go and learn now.

God has given you gifts and talents for serving others. Go, those talents are needed now.

God wants to use your current role to prepare you for the tasks up ahead.

Go and be faithful now.

Leadership development happens as we engage in God's mission.

Leadership development happens when we serve others.

Leadership development happens as we go.