

Imitate

Series: I Became a Christian and All I Got Was This Lousy T-Shirt

Week Three: Small Group Questions

Correlates with Chapters 7–9

1. Tell us about one of your most memorable experiences that involves dancing.
2. Christians talk about “following” Jesus. When you think of “following Jesus,” what typically comes to mind?
3. Christians also talk about “imitating” Jesus. When you think of “imitating Jesus,” what typically comes to mind?
4. Some of us are reading the book *I Became a Christian and All I Got Was This Lousy T-Shirt*. In chapter 7 of that book the author talks about how we often think of following (or imitating) Jesus just as trying to avoid sin and live a moral life. He claims that although it is that, it should be much more. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
5. The author also mentions (in chapter 9) the monks’ idea of *perichoresis*—that God is a God who dances, and we’ve been invited into that dance with God. It’s the idea that following or imitating looks a lot like dancing.
 - a. What do you think are the strengths of the dancing metaphor?
 - b. What do you think are the weaknesses of the dancing metaphor?
6. Read Luke 10:38–42.
7. Both Martha and Mary were people who wanted to follow Jesus, but at least in this instance, they took very different approaches.
 - a. What would you say are the key differences between these two sisters?
 - b. Would you agree that Mary’s approach to following Jesus looks more like dancing than Martha’s? Why or why not?
 - c. Why do you think Jesus commends Mary?
 - d. What do you think it would take for you to be more like Mary (in this story) and less like Martha?
8. Someone has said, “There is some music you face; there is other music you dance to. In the energy and movement and teachings of Jesus, I have found the music to dance my way through life.”
 - a. Would you say that your life looks more like a dance since you started following Jesus?
 - b. In what ways is that true?
9. How might your efforts to imitate (and become more like) Jesus be impacted if you viewed it as learning from him how to dance through life rather than merely trying to not sin so much?
10. Learning how to dance takes some effort and practice. What are some things you can do to learn how to better do the “spiritual” dance of following and imitating Jesus?

