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**BiG iDEa:** Jesus invites me to follow him right where I am.

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*Growing Deeper* this week...

Set aside some time throughout this week to read and reflect on what God's word says on the subject from the Bible passages below. Some questions are provided for you or a small group of friends to provide focus for your reflection. Before your start: Breathe, pray, ask the Holy Spirit for help.

### **Identify**

What are some things in your heart, mind or life that make it difficult for you to follow Jesus?

### **Read**

*Scriptures to grow by...* Matthew 9:9-13, Acts 9:6-12, John 14:23-24, Colossians 3:17, Psalm 30.

### **Reflect**

1. What words, phrases or ideas stand out to you from the Bible readings you read today? How do these passages help you think about your willingness to follow Jesus no matter what?
2. How do these words, phrases or ideas connect with your everyday life? What do they lead you to think or to do?
3. On Sunday, Doug reminded us that "being a sinner or unbeliever doesn't disqualify you from following Jesus. Jesus' invitation to follow him is about relationship not rules." How do you respond to this statement? What might Jesus be inviting you to consider about what it means to follow him right where you are?

### **Respond**

*Moving forward...*

At the end of the day, the question isn't how far along you are on your spiritual journey, but whether you're following Jesus. What is one thing you can do this week to begin to follow Jesus or to follow him more closely? Begin tomorrow morning with this prayer: "Lord, where you lead, I will follow."