

October 30, 2016
Following Jesus Series
Part Nine: Invites Us into a Lifetime of Adventure
Adam Donyes

1. What is the greatest general adventure you've been on?
2. What is the greatest adventure, big or small, you've ever had with Jesus? What lasting memory do you have because you chose an adventure with Jesus?

3. Read the following children's poem "Whatif" by Shel Silverstein:

Last night, while I lay thinking here,
some Whatifs crawled inside my ear
and pranced and partied all night long
and sang their same old Whatif song:
Whatif I'm dumb in school?
Whatif they've closed the swimming pool?
Whatif I get beat up?
Whatif there's poison in my cup?
Whatif I start to cry?
Whatif I get sick and die?
Whatif I flunk that test?
Whatif green hair grows on my chest?
Whatif nobody likes me?
Whatif a bolt of lightning strikes me?
Whatif I don't grow tall?
Whatif my head starts getting smaller?
Whatif the fish won't bite?
Whatif the wind tears up my kite?
Whatif they start a war?
Whatif my parents get divorced?
Whatif the bus is late?
Whatif my teeth don't grow in straight?
Whatif I tear my pants?
Whatif I never learn to dance?
Everything seems well, and then
the nighttime Whatifs strike again!

*These are children's fear. Excluding losing a parent, what was your greatest fear as a child? Excluding losing a child, what is your greatest fear as an adult?

*What would you tell a child worrying about these whatif's at night?

4. Jesus walked by the sea and saw Peter and Andrew casting their nets into the sea

because “they were fishermen.” If Jesus “walked by” you, how would a recorder of events fill in the blank?

He is (a/an)_____. She is (a/an)_____.

5. When Peter and Andrew were called, scripture (Matthew 4:17-23) says they “immediately” “left their nets and followed” Jesus.

*What is your net, or the thing you hold on tightly to?

*What decision have you ever made immediately?

*What usually is required for you to make an immediate decision?

*What about Jesus draws you to follow him?

*Is there anything you think Jesus, through his Word or the Spirit, is calling you to today?

6. Have you ever sacrificed your comfort to do something you thought Jesus would want you to do? Explain.

7. The rich young ruler could not give up what Jesus suggested in order to follow him. What, if anything, do you need to give up to follow him more completely?

8. Jesus said, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30).

*How do you reconcile that stress-relieving passage with the idea of leaving your comfort zone and embarking on adventure?

*What burden could following Jesus relieve you of?

9. In John 10:10 Jesus says that he has come to give us “life and have it abundantly.”

*How are adventure and abundant life synonymous?

*What other components are there to the abundant life Jesus wants for us?