

S E P S

Following the Footsteps of Jesus



WHERE ARE YOU WALKING THIS SUMMER?

Strolling on the beach, taking a hike, walking around the park, going down the boardwalk to the *Fudge Kitchen*, or trudging back from a long day at the beach. No matter where we are, we'll all be stepping somewhere this summer. Some of us might be taking steps in family relationships, some in our health, or maybe in simply stepping outside our front door for the first time in a year.

Moving forward in new ways can sometimes be difficult. Perhaps we don't quite know how to begin or where to take that first step. Our relationship with Jesus can be the same way. You might feel that tug in your heart to draw near to Him but aren't quite sure how to do that. Maybe it feels like there are already a million things to do and adding "one more thing" doesn't seem feasible. That's ok to feel that way, life is overwhelming sometimes!

We want to share with you some ways that taking a step in your friendship with Jesus can seem less like another item on the to-do list, and be more life-giving and uplifting.

SERVE : MINISTRY AND MISSION

S Do you end up with leftovers after dinner sometimes? Keep a few *Care for Friends* meal packets (found in the back of the church) and take a few minutes to make your extra portions into a meal for someone else.

Know anyone who might have a hard time mowing their lawn? Go do it for them! You might have to pack up your lawnmower, which is certainly an inconvenience.

We're learning though that sometimes there's a little suffering in service.

***Pro-tip: if you have a teen old enough, send them to mow the lawn! Or bring them along to weed wack.**

TITHE : GIVING OUR GIFTS

T Tithing is simple, but one of the more difficult steps to take. We all need money to live and sometimes the thought of giving some of our hard-earned income away makes us uncomfortable. That's ok! Not all good things are comfortable. Maybe the step Jesus is asking you to take is to trust Him more by giving away some of what makes you feel secure. And find deeper security in Him. Start by adding \$5 to what you're already giving, and see what happens!

Don't feel like you're being called to give more? Instead, talk to your children or a friend about why you tithe and how it has brought you closer to Jesus!

ENGAGE : MAKING FAITHFUL CONNECTIONS

E Even though we're not running many small groups this summer, you can still connect with others about our faith. Read a book with a friend or your significant other and share your thoughts. Or pick one night a week to watch *The Chosen* on YouTube and discuss it after! Who knows, grab some pop-corn and maybe it'll turn into a Family Movie Night!

PRACTICE : PRAYER AND SACRAMENTS

P This step does not have to look like an hour in prayer every day, though many of us wish we had the time for that! It can be simple and start with Sunday Mass or reflecting on the daily Gospel reading.

Two weeks ago we ran a great article about praying simple ideas about how to pray together as a family. If there's a tug in your heart to help your family get to know Jesus more, check out that article on our website for some great ideas!

SHARE : INVEST AND INVITE

S Investing in relationships with others is, for many, a routine part of life. Maybe it's the mailperson, the lifeguard at the pool, a client or a vendor. Do you feel a little voice in your heart telling you to love the more? Perhaps ask how you can pray for them at Mass this week or simply listening to them will reveal the love to Jesus a little more!

TWO ROADS DIVERGED IN A WOOD AND I TOOK THE ONE LESS TRAVELED BY, AND THAT HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

| ROBERT FROST |

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