

# 72+U

## **Movement: Discover, Equip, Connect and Send The Flow of Christ-like, Authentic Life**

A 4-part Sermon Series  
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### **Overview:**

Jesus led a movement. Jesus moved from town to town from soul to soul teaching, healing and launching people into new lives. Jesus' call "Follow me" requires movement. The early Methodist sought to be movement, reviving souls through scriptural wholeness and methodical discipleship. Wesley feared that the Methodist spiritual movement might eventually stall out becoming another institutional church maintaining a godly facade but lacking the internal spiritual power that fuels real life change. Authentic Christianity never sits in stagnant pools long, but moves the soul upstream towards Christ, towards love, towards holiness, towards service and towards others.

Are we an institution or a movement? Are our souls stuck in a spiritual hibernation or are we being born anew into spiritual life? Will we open ourselves to Christ's spiritual movement? Will we allow the Spirit to plow our neglected spiritual ground and seed new vision, renewed vitality, rekindled mission and revived ministry in us? Join us as we explore the key components of any personal or institutional movement. Come *move* with us.

### **Week 1:**

#### **Discover: Encountering Christ**

Christianity is not a stationary activity, stagnant body, Bible Study, pot luck, country club, memorial service, or family reunion. Christianity is a movement towards Christlikeness. Authentic Christians always lurch closer to Christ.

#### **Scripture:**

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that somebody hid in a field, which someone else found and covered up. Full of joy, the finder sold everything and bought that field." (Matthew 13:44 CEV)

*"Come, follow me," (Matthew 4:19 NIV)*

**Movement Challenge:** How will you move closer to Christ this week?

### **Week 2:**

#### **Equip: Growing into the Image of Christ**

Christlikeness is a lifestyle not a systematic theology, intellectual achievement or set of rules. Authentic Christians strive to adopt the attitudes, actions, habits, characteristics, phrases, prayer-life and good works of Jesus Christ. We do not do this alone. God's very Spirit and God's people assist in our transformational journey.

**Scripture:**

*"You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16 NIV)*

**Movement Challenge:** How will you grow in Christ-likeness this week?

**Week 3:****Connect: Loving God and Serving Neighbor**

Authentic Christians share struggles and triumphs and thereby create community. Jesus gathered a band of imperfect followers and they spent three years sharing life, teaching and doing ministry together. There are no independent, telecommuting, or solitary Christians. Christianity can only be practiced in solidarity with others.

**Scripture:**

*"Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did." (1 John 2:6 NLT)*

**Movement Challenge:** Where will you join others in Christian community this week? How will you share your triumphs and struggles?

**Week 4:****Send: Following Christ Always Produces Sending**

Authentic Christianity continually replicates itself. Christ Followers plant the seeds of the Good News with Christ-like actions and words. Sending begins the cycle of spiritual rebirth and renewal born anew at discovery! Authentic Christians love the world and long to help other people discover Christ. As we discover, equip, and connect, we engage our broken world with the love of God. The Christ-like church is not walled off in sanctimonious safety, but like Christ it engages a messy world.

**Scripture:**

*"While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ... I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." ... When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:10-13 35-38 NIV)*

**Movement Challenge:** How will you engage in the messiness of our community this week?