



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 6: Followed

Suggested Week of Use: October 8, 2023

Core Passage: Mark 8:31–9:1

News Story Summary

When singer and cultural icon Jimmy Buffett passed away on September 1 after battling a rare form of skin cancer, his loyal legion of followers—known as “Parrotheads”—went into mourning. For decades, these Hawaiian-shirted fans embraced the laid-back, tropical lifestyle that Buffett’s music and persona represented. They would gather at his concerts and create their own vibrant communities. Parrotheads are known for their carefree attitude and for embracing a style of music that temporarily transported them to a world of beachside bliss and relaxation. For Parrotheads, it’s about escaping the daily grind as much as anything else. Whether it’s a concert on a sandy shore or a gathering in a suburban backyard, Jimmy Buffett’s followers share a deep connection with both his music and lifestyle.

For more about this story, search “Jimmy Buffett Dies.”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, draw two columns on the board. Ask: *What celebrities have been able to cultivate a loyal base of fans?* Record responses in the first column. To illustrate fan loyalty, share the story about Jimmy Buffett’s death and the reaction of his fans, the “Parrotheads.” Encourage adults to talk about why these fans are so devoted. Direct adults to suggest reasons a person might follow a celebrity or public figure and list those ideas in the second column. Ask: *What would it take for you to be known as a follower of a celebrity or some other public figure?* Share that in this session, Jesus challenged those who were following Him to become true disciples—regardless of the hardships and struggles involved.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, remind adults about the story of Jimmy Buffett’s death and the passion of his followers. Refer back to the list of reasons people follow public figures. Ask: *How do these reasons compare to the reasons we should be loyal followers of Jesus?* Emphasize that while we might be fans of certain authors, actors, athletes, or leaders, our greatest loyalty should be reserved for Jesus. Challenge adults to reflect on their priorities and to evaluate their walk with Jesus. Urge them to seek Him, even if it means dying to their own desires and enduring persecution. Close the session in prayer, asking God to help each person follow Jesus well.