

Together on The Way



It doesn't just happen.

Getting good at most things takes being shown how to be good at them. Want to be good at basketball? Someone's going to have to show you how to shoot a basketball, which involves where your feet are, how you hold the ball, what you aim at. Want to play the guitar? Someone's going to have to show you how your fingers need to bend, what it takes to tune the strings. Want your dog to behave? Someone's going to have to show both of you how to act, to respond, to reward. You get the idea. (By the way, those are all three things I've dabbled in, but never made a commitment to...hence, not proficient in any of them. Bummer.)

I'm certainly not the first person, much less pastor, to make the connection between practices (and practice) and how we Christians follow Jesus. And I hope we revisit the idea every year when Lent rolls around. It is one of the great benefits of the liturgical calendar that we observe annually a season during which we focus on turning our lives toward God. The very existence of such a season drives home the point that this discipleship thing requires intentionality. It doesn't just happen.

A couple of problems with this, though, and these likely won't sound new to you, either. First, it's just a season. What about the rest of the year? Second, and more problematic, we're not so sure how important it is, or, perhaps closer, how important it is to us. It is a lot easier to dabble. We tend to take Jesus and apply bits of his stuff to our lives—sort of a self-help philosophy—rather than apply our lives to his way—a transformative practice. What if there were some tools for us to use?

I hope you'll join us on Wednesday evenings (meal at 5:00 PM, session at 6:00 PM) and Sunday mornings as we explore what being "Jesus-shaped" might entail in 2026. When he told us he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6), Jesus was pointing us toward a truthful way of living; a way that would require emulating him, not just believing the right things. So we'll take these weeks to learn some ways we might approach and engage life to live it more like him. It doesn't just happen.