## Introduction:

Our God is a God of transformation. No person, family, group, or organization can encounter Jesus and come away unchanged. God is on the move and if we are going to follow him, we have to be ready to experience change. If we are not changing, we are not growing, and if we are not growing, we are not following Jesus. The good news is that growth is attainable, because no matter where you are in your relationship with Jesus, everybody has a next step.

## Scripture:

"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."-Philippians 3:10-14

## **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. Does your family or group of friends have any traditions; any "must-dos" that surround holidays or family gatherings? Do you wish you could change any of those traditions & habits?
- 2. When we encounter Jesus, life becomes about more than the way we've always done things. If you have begun a relationship with Jesus, are there any changes that you saw occur within you & your life immediately after taking that step?
- 3. Knowing that growth is a process, are there any changes that you anticipate or hope might occur in your life as a result of following Jesus?
- 4. Are there any "must-dos" in your life that you have been holding on to that you might have to give up to give Jesus the space to make those changes? (Maybe these are habits, goals you are chasing, relationships, anxieties, fears...)
- 5. What do you think your next step is right now?

## Take the Next Step:

Jesus didn't die for us so we could stay the same. What next step do you believe Jesus is calling you to take? Is it finally saying yes to Him, getting serious about reading the Bible, being more faithful about going to worship, or joining a small group? Maybe it is confessing & turning away from an area of sin in your life, taking a step forward in your giving or finding a place to serve. Listen for God's direction & take a step this week. You won't be doing it alone.