



## Autumn 19: Why are you a follower of Jesus Christ?

### Jim Smith

**Watch the video of Jim Smith in conversation with Glen** which can be found in the NLBC YouTube playlist *Lifegroup series autumn 2019: why are you a follower of Jesus Christ?* <https://youtu.be/MP0Tf3VT-9k>.

1. Jim talks about how he experienced the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) at work the moment he started to follow Christ, when “the Spirit rippled the veil” and began a transformation in him. Read 2 Corinthians 3:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 13:8-12.

- How have you experienced this veil “being taken away”?

- What do you understand by 2 Cor 3:18? Can you see that transformation in yourself? In others?

2. The Bible has been key for Jim both in terms of growing his faith and in coping with challenges and tests to his faith. Read Psalm 119:41-48 and Colossians 4:2-6.

- Discuss ways we can get to know the whole Bible so that we know it in the same way the psalmist does.

- Jim talks about ‘grace not argument’. Looking at Psalm 119:41 & 42, and Col 4:5 & 6, how can we address difficult issues in our culture today with both truth and grace?

- The idea of the Author of the Bible being with us as we read it is a helpful way to understand the work of the Holy Spirit as we read the Word. How have you experienced this?

3. Jim talks about Jesus being the fixed point in existence, round which everything else rotates. Our society today struggles with the idea of absolute truth. How would you answer someone who challenges you on the idea that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6)?

4. Lastly, Jim is still a follower of Jesus because he knows his initials are carved on the Cross and Jesus shows him the path home, all the way, to the room where his name is on the door (see John 14:2-4). Finish the evening in praise and thanksgiving to God!