

## How to use this Course

*Please definitely read this section. It will help you maximise the benefit from the course.*

### Who and what is this course for?

It is for *Christ's followers from Muslim background*, or those who are close to deciding for Christ. It helps them take first steps in discipleship. Mature believers will also benefit, because the course helps them reflect on issues relevant to Muslim culture and to discuss these with others.

### What is the learning method?

This course cannot be completed just through self-study. It is to be used in a relational way. The course method each week is for the learner(s) to:

1. firstly, *learn from the course book* themselves through personal home study;
2. secondly, *interact with you (and others if possible)* in discussion, typically once a week;
3. thirdly, *put the teaching into practice* in the context of their daily lives.

In more detail:

- The *'home study' stage* involves active learning not passive reading. It requires learners to do something after each short section of teaching:
  - Some questions help learners *remember* what they have just read;
  - Some questions help them *understand* and *apply* the teaching to their lives;
  - Some questions help them *reflect* on their attitudes and talk to God about them;
  - Some questions help them be ready to *share* their experiences in the discussion time;
  - Also the pictures and examples help learners to *connect* God's Word with life experience.
- The *discussion stage* makes the material alive and relevant. Learners voice their own opinion and listen to others' opinions. This breaks down old attitudes and brings new motivations.
- The *'practical task' stage* gives the learners something to *do* before the next meeting. It prevents the lesson from being just being theory and makes it a part of their lives.

### Is it for use with individuals or groups?

This course can be used in either way, and there are advantages and disadvantages of each. You will be guided by circumstances according to who is available to study the course. If it is possible to bring together a small group of BMBs, this strengthens their interrelationship and allows them to gain experience in leading discussion. Individual mentoring is important too. But 1:1 discussion can become one-directional, when you ask all the questions and they give all the answers; so try to make it a shared experience, where you are both learning from God's Word and from each other.

Here in the Advisors Guide we usually refer to 'the learner(s)', to mean either singular or plural. Also, instead of 'his or her' we use 'their' to include male and female. All the discussion questions can be used with groups or with individuals, though a few of the learning activities require a group.

### Must all twenty lessons be covered at one go?

Not necessarily. Twenty weeks without a break is a very long course! So feel free to do it in two halves with a break in the middle; or just select the lessons which are relevant to your learner(s).

### What is the format and timing of the discussion time?

There is no fixed time or format. You may vary them as needed, but a typical discussion session might last at least 1½ hours (including refreshments) and would include:

- Refreshments and chat (at the beginning or end)

- Opening prayer
- Review of last week's practical task
- Review of this week's home study
- Discussion of selected questions from the lesson
- Discussion of a Bible passage
- Sometimes, a video clip or an activity
- Practice of a memory verse
- Closing time of prayer, including personal prayer requests

In the discussion time, do not simply go through all the material in the course book. This becomes tedious. Anyway, the learner(s) should already have covered this before coming for discussion, so you need not revise it all. Nor should you add much fresh teaching in sermon format. Instead, concentrate on those practical discussion points which help bring life change for the learner(s).

### **Is this course based on the Bible?**

Yes, very much so. It is rooted in the conviction that the Bible is God's Word and that we as Christ's followers (both the learners and the advisor) need to understand and obey it. *Come Follow Me* is based on 1 Peter, which was originally written to guide new Christians in a context of pressure.

The course book has as its backbone is an inductive study of 1 Peter, taken in sequence from the first to the last chapter (though not covering quite all of the verses). Springing from this backbone, like ribs, are twenty topics important for relevant to believers of Muslim background (BMBs). These ribs link with relevant teaching from other parts of the Bible.

Each lesson has a memory verse to summarize its theme. These verses are drawn from 1 Peter and other books, and are collected for your convenience in the Appendix of this advisor's guide. To aid memory, short verses are selected for memorization, or else short sections of longer verses.

### **Why does the course book look so simple?**

It was originally written for a context where few people have the opportunity for higher education. Therefore it uses easy-to-read text, with concrete examples and pictures. But this does not mean the concepts are simple. Personal study of these lessons provides a springboard for the discussion time leading to in-depth reflection, transformed worldview and practical discipleship. Concrete examples make discussion and application easier than if it was just abstract teaching. Also, a person disciplined through this course has an easy tool to disciple others. This makes the discipling more reproducible.

### **Why is this advisor's guide so detailed?**

It is written to help a wide range of advisors. Some of them need more help in creating discussion questions, others need cultural guidelines. We have also suggested feedback for discussion questions. Experienced advisors will not need this, but it is all included here so that you can select what is relevant for you.

If there are too many questions to cover in each week's discussion time, just select the ones which are relevant to your learner(s). But please try to include the ones which in the course book are marked 'for discussion' or 'personal response'.

### **Does each learner need their own copy of the course book?**

Yes, and so do you. You may obtain these from

[www.lulu.com/shop/tim-green/come-follow-me/paperback/product-21011264.html](http://www.lulu.com/shop/tim-green/come-follow-me/paperback/product-21011264.html) .