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# LIFE TEEN PARENT LETTER

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## LIFE NIGHT: LIKE, FOLLOW, SHARE

### CONTENT OVERVIEW

Our American society has an infatuation with celebrities. These celebrities can be movie stars, musicians, professional athletes, television personalities, or even politicians. It becomes a habit for some people to follow, to track, and to stay updated on the current happenings of their favorite celebrity. Celebrities are followed on Twitter and Facebook, their lives are examined on evening TV shows, and every public appearance or spotting of these celebrities is posted and shared for all to see. Not only is much of a celebrity's life in public view, but many people also have come to place a great amount of time in using that celebrity as a model to living.

But, what if? What if people followed Jesus in the same way that many people follow celebrities? What would it look like if people would decide to fully embrace Jesus in the same way that they embrace celebrities? For starters, it would mean allowing oneself to go deeper in learning who Jesus truly is, what He taught, and how He lived His life. It would mean developing an 'active' relationship with Jesus, as opposed to merely viewing Him from a distance, as people do with celebrities. It would mean taking every opportunity that we can to learn more about Jesus and then truly encountering Him through a variety of different ways.

There is a huge difference between Jesus and our modern day celebrities. Jesus continually calls us to something deeper and a life more meaningful than any celebrity, or any person in history for that matter, can ever imagine. When we have a true encounter with Jesus, through the Eucharist, through prayer, through Adoration, or through any other way, we are presented with a decision- a decision to follow Jesus in our lives or to not follow Jesus in our lives. Following Jesus is something that we commonly refer to as discipleship.

The Catechism defines the word disciple as "those who accepted Jesus' message to follow Him." (CCC 787) Discipleship is a call. It is a call to leave something behind (our old way of life) only to embrace a greater and fuller way of living (John 10:10). When we make the decision to follow Jesus, we are lead to have a conversion of heart. And, as we follow Jesus, we partake in His life, His mission, His joys, and His sufferings. That is truly more than any celebrity could ever offer any of us.

### CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. Who is your favorite celebrity, musician, or sports figure? Why is that person your favorite?
2. Do you spend time following that person on social media, TV, or on the Internet?
3. Is there anything holding you back from fully following Jesus? What is it? Why?