lectures and lessons helped students in Urijah's nursing, public health, and nutrition and dietetic classes at Solomon Islands National University understand the root causes of non-communicable diseases. "These future frontline healthcare workers will be the ones encouraging the patients who'll visit them at clinics or in hospitals to make healthy lifestyle choices." With a bachelor's degree in biomedical science and a master's in clinical immunology, Urijah dreams of developing postgraduate courses in lifestyle medicine at the university and establishing a research-based wellness centre offering lifestyle interventions to prevent or manage chronic illness.

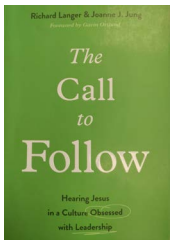
Urijah will receive the John Ballard Trim Health Ministry Prize for outstanding achievement in the study of wholistic health and wellbeing and its application in the community when he graduates in April. "Dad passed away before I could complete my studies in lifestyle medicine, but I'm sure he'll be proud of me. I'm driven to carry on his wish for me to become a health leader in the church." TEACH

Author information
Brenton Stacey is the Public Relations and Philanthropy Officer at Avondale University, where he is also completing a master's degree in theology.

BOOK REVIEW

The Call to Follow: Hearing Jesus in a Culture Obsessed with Leadership

Richard Langer and Joanne J. Jung. (2022).
Crossway, 132 pages
ISBN: 978-1433578038



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Richard Langer and Joanne J. Jung have written a compelling book sure to garner attention in a leadership saturated world. Richard is professor of biblical and theological studies and director of the Office for the Integration of Faith and Learning at Biola University. He is an ordained minister with over twenty years of pastoral experience. Joanne is professor of biblical and theological studies and the associate dean of online education and faculty development at the Talbot School of Theology, Biola University.

In *The Call to Follow: Hearing Jesus in Culture Obsessed with Leadership*, Langer and Jung present a strong case for the necessity of "followership" in the everyday life of a Christian (p. 15). While not intending to diminish the need for quality leadership, the authors aim "to increase the effectiveness of both followers and leaders by promoting common ownership of the vision, deepening our appreciation of one another's contributions, and seeing more clearly where our organizational and vocational tasks fit within our spiritual lives" (p. 21). Langer and Jung's audience consists of several groups of people, including those: faithful in everyday work activities, working with a sense of mission (p. 18), or part of an entity, church, or business pursuing a mission (p. 20).

The book is constructed with eight chapters which fall into four loose divisions. Chapters 1-3 introduce the book's appeal by comparing leadership and followership and then presents a biblical basis for the reality of followership as a Christlike characteristic. Chapters 4-5 reveal the crisis associated with being a follower compared to testimonies of those who have proven themselves faithful followers. Chapter 6 presents an endearing example of one historic follower who provides a helpful example relevant within every generation. Chapters 7-8 offer examples for readers, describing how to begin applying the principles

"presents a biblical basis for the reality of followership as a Christlike characteristic."

of followership into one's personal life and the rewards which are promised.

The authors begin their work by revealing the uniqueness of following as contrasted with leading. As a book about following, the authors do not hesitate to address leadership early-on, placing it in a category requiring caution due to the detrimental effects resulting from striving to lead while neglecting one's role as a follower. For example, chapter one opens with a sobering perspective of leading and leadership as not good "in and of itself" (p. 24). As money is a means to an end, so too is leadership. Langer and Jung present a "nuanced view of leadership that extolls its benefits even as it warns about its perils" (p. 25). Leadership can be described in a manner that can be either healthy or unhealthy, a point the authors aptly present in the remainder of the first chapter.

With the comparison between leadership and followership completed in the first chapter, the authors focus on followership for the remainder of the work. Chapter Two reveals a plethora of mistaken beliefs about followership which has saturated a generation with malign perspectives. The authors here define followership as a person's freely chosen deference to another person's lead while remaining actively engaged and personally taking mission ownership in a particular work (p. 39-40). Misconceptions about followership are addressed for the remainder of chapter two.

Chapter Three commences a biblical appeal for followership, noting the Christian as being a part of a kingdom of followers (p. 59). Jesus is described as having many disciples who are his "followers," yet remain faithful to the biblical account of Jesus truly being a follower as well. Within a myriad of examples from John's Gospel, Jesus plays "the role of a follower rather than a leader" (p. 61). The authors then solidify their appeal with a powerful question, "Does it look like the Gospel of John was written so that we can lead like Jesus led or so we can follow like Jesus followed?" (p. 62).

Chapter Four details the reality of the crisis of followership being rooted in the lack of shared vision between leaders and followers for an organization's forward movement. The authors' note, "We rarely, if ever, stop to think that the most immediate way to improve our leadership is to improve our followership" (p. 88). A powerful appeal is then made (Chapter 5) through a collection of testimonies of those who were faithful followers in life. Christlikeness and followership is clearly linked when viewed in the lives of individuals as well as congregations throughout history, a point briefly yet powerfully made.

Chapter Six highlights the significant influence of Brother Lawrence, whose life provides a meagre yet powerful example of how followership impacts people through embracing everyday living. Chapters 7-8 conclude the work with a devotional approach to beginning followership in daily life and the rewards which accompany such a posture. Disciples of Christ are followers of Christ who, when standing before God the Father, will be judged in measure with their followership. God eagerly rewards good followers according to Scripture, a point which the authors introduce as a matter affecting one's earthly life and eternal life with God in heaven.

In evaluating Langer and Jung's work, one must recognize the reality of this generation's leadership-saturated culture. Perhaps a "weakness" in the work is the popularity of the topic itself, as leadership outranks followership in current publication titles by nearly 400 to 1 (p. 16). Nonetheless, the material is relevant and needed in this leadership-saturated culture. The central thesis of a book on followership exists over and against nearly every philosophy current culture advances. The appeal for followership is truly a bold step in leading people to see the eternal value in being a follower of Christ, despite one's earthly status. Chapter Two carries significant weight for the reader in relation to the unsullied awareness of mistaken beliefs of followership. Langer and Jung do a superb job in detailing the reality of followership being considered a negative character trait, a point quickly and compellingly contested in the third chapter's biblical appeal and support for God's call to followership.

The length of the book coupled with a study guide makes the work practical, approachable and highly recommended to Christian educators and Administrators in day-school and undergraduate college settings, as well as those serving in vocational ministry such as Lead Pastors, Discipleship Pastors, Youth and Children's Pastors, and Executive Pastors. TEACH

"The central thesis of a book on followership exists over and against nearly every philosophy current culture advances."

Author information

Jason P. Mauk (MRE, Liberty University) is the Lead Pastor at Tipton Baptist Church in Tipton, PA. He has over 14 years of pastoral experience, serving as Campus Pastor and Instructor of Bible and Humanities at Great Commission Schools in Altoona, PA. Jason is also a Licensed Funeral Director/Embalmer, serving over 20 years in leadership roles to grieving families as the Vice President of a century-old family funeral business.