

FOLLOWING JESUS

Jack Selfridge

Revised by
Inter-Mission Co-operative Outreach



Text by
William R. Friesen
Joseph F. Pope
Helen Pope

Illustrated by
Ray Keighley
Germaine Cadieux
Helen Pope

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INTRODUCTION

This is a home study book to help church leaders understand the Bible. It is a part of a series of texts to help train pastors and church workers to do the work of God in a better way.

PI and TEE

The way in which these lessons are written is called programmed instruction or PI. The books are to be used for home study and weekly discussion meetings with a teacher. Using them in this way is called Theological Education by Extension or TEE.

TEE in AFRICA

As teachers, we have used many different methods to teach church leaders in Africa. We have found this way to be the best. During the past few years we have worked with many evangelical churches and missions to help them start Theological Education by Extension. TEE is so useful because it teaches many good men who are already working in local churches. These men have families and must work hard. They are leaders in their churches. They cannot leave these responsibilities. TEE takes the Bible School to these students. They continue to work at home and help in the church. Then they attend meetings near home with other students like themselves, where they discuss the lessons. The students learn by studying, attending the weekly discussions, and using what they have learned every day. More than 30 denominations and missions in 20 countries in Africa are using these PI books. They are using TEE to help church workers to understand the Bible and do God's work.

TEXT PROJECT

Evangelical missions are cooperating to prepare the programmed books for TEE. The books are written by nationals and missionaries working together. Each lesson is written, tested, and rewritten until we know that it teaches well. Since there are many writers and they are new at programming Bible lessons, we edit and retest each book before it is printed. We do this to make the lessons easier to understand, to make them fit with the other books, and to make them teach in the best way.

So, as editors we share in the responsibility of what is given in each book.

FOLLOWING JESUS

The teaching in this book was first written in 1957. It was not divided into lessons with questions to answer. It was a small book of information to help people become Christians and go on in their Christian lives. The book was used in many parts of Africa.

Now the teaching can be used in Theological Education by Extension. It should help students see their own relationship with Christ. It should also help them give the important facts of the Christian faith to their people. Therefore we have called it the Foundation Book. We suggest that it be taught first when a TEE centre is opened.

The lessons have been tested with students to be sure that they work. We want to make these books as good as they can be. We will be happy to have you write and give us your criticism and suggestions. Or you may want to tell us how God helped you and your church through the studies. Be sure to read the next page which tells how to use this book.

Your friends in Christ,
Fred and Grace Holland
TEXT-Africa Project
Coordinators and Editors.

TEXT AUTHOR

The author of this book is Jack Selfridge. He was born in Northern Ireland of hard working parents. He received Christ at the age of 14, and was later called to Africa. After training in a Bible school in Glasgow, Scotland, and teaching Bible for a while, he came to Africa in 1948. His work here has been with many different churches. He has been called by church leaders to help them with evangelism, Bible studies and writing. He has worked in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia, Rhodesia, South Africa, Swaziland and Malawi. He is now living in Scotland.

BEE AUTHORS

INTER-MISSION CO-OPERATIVE OUTREACH has been granted permission to revise the "FOLLOWING JESUS" course in accordance with their teaching and the culture of the people with whom they work. This program of instruction is known as Bible Education by Extension or BEE. INTER-MISSION CO-OPERATIVE OUTREACH assigned the revision of the course to William R. Friesen, Joseph F. Pope and Helen Pope, staff at the Key-Way-Tin Bible Institute, a department of the Northern Canada Evangelical Mission.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The work of those who proofread, field tested and did illustrations is graciously acknowledged, for their help made this revision possible.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book is your teacher. It will teach you a lesson each day. Listen carefully to what the book says to you. If you want to learn well, you must obey the book just as you would obey a teacher. When a teacher tells you to take your Bible and read a verse, do you just look at your teacher? No. This is what you must do with this book. Obey it as your teacher.

Think about how a teacher teaches in school. First, the teacher tells the students something. He explains it carefully. Then he asks questions. When the students answer right, he tells them that their answer is good. If the students do not answer well, then the teacher explains again.

This book uses the same way of teaching. First the book gives you a small part of the lesson. Then it asks you a question or gives you something to do. If you read carefully, you will be able to answer the question. Answering the question does two things. First, it shows whether you have understood well. Second, it helps you to remember what you have learned.

These lessons are written so that if you read each part carefully you should get the right answer. If you are not sure of the right answer, you should read that part again. If you are still not sure, then write the answer you can. Then go on. As you continue through the lesson, you will find out if you are answering correctly. But it is very important that

you always write your best answer before you read the next part. It will help you if you use a heavy piece of paper to cover the rest of the page as you read. Move the paper down to the first heavy line which looks like this: * * * . Read the teaching and answer the question. Then move the paper down to the next heavy line. In this way you will not read the answer before you are ready for it. As you read the answer, think about it. It will correct you if you are learning wrong.

It will take you 10 weeks to finish this book. You should do one lesson each day, for five days each week. Do not try to do two or three lessons in one day. The last questions for each lesson are the most important ones. They show what it is that the teacher wants you to remember. We call these the objectives of the book. At the end of the week, if you can answer the last questions of each day, then you have learned well.

This book is prepared to be used with a weekly discussion meeting. You should have a leader to help you with your problems. Your leader will also help you discuss with other students what you have learned from the book. If you have not studied your lessons before coming to class, you will not understand what is being talked about.

If there is no leader to help you with these lessons, call together some of your friends. Ask them to study the lessons. Then meet together and let one of the group lead the discussion.

We think you will like this kind of learning. As you study, you will try hard to get the right answers. You will be pleased when you get them. When you come to the questions at the end of the book, you will be surprised how much you have learned.

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