

# Discussion of *Faith to Follow: The Journey of Becoming a Pastor's Wife*

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## by Kate Meadows

Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS) is a collaborative effort of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Pastoral Education department and LCMS districts to help pastors and their wives in the transition from seminary to congregation. To learn more, visit [lcms.org/pals](https://lcms.org/pals).

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Kate Meadows is a pastor’s wife; a mother of two; and a writer, editor and writing workshop instructor in Rapid City, S.D. Her husband, Bryan Meadows, graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 2019 and serves as associate pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Rapid City. Kate earned her MFA in Professional Writing from Western Connecticut State University in 2010. Since then, she has published a collection of essays, *Tough Love: A Wyoming Childhood*, and numerous articles and essays in national, regional and local publications. A native of Wyoming, she was raised in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

This study guide is created for use with the final four chapters of Kate Meadows’ book, *Faith to Follow: The Journey of Becoming a Pastor’s Wife*. These final chapters follow the journey through the first year as a pastor’s wife as she makes the Transition from the Call to the Church.



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*Transition from the Call to the Church*

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## Reader Responses to *Faith to Follow*

*Faith to Follow* warmly shares the voices of women who have experienced seminary life with their husbands. It speaks to those considering and those on the path toward ministry, as well as those in new ministry roles. I've taught classes for seminary wives for almost 30 years, and I know they need encouragement. I'm grateful for this realistic and hopeful view from behind the scenes!

—Renee Gibbs, teacher, speaker and encourager

*Faith to Follow* resonates with my heart! I am 15 years into my journey as a pastor's wife, and this book brings me right back to the beginning. Kate beautifully captures the emotions and experiences so common to women who are preparing to become pastors' wives. Kate consistently returns the reader to our true source of faith to follow — Christ. As a PALS facilitator, I find the video discussion questions very relatable and useful for wives' discussions.

—Renee Lehr, pastor's wife and mentor for new pastors' wives

# I: Wrestling with God After the Call

1. Make a list of who you are: wife, daughter, etc. What has life at seminary taught you about who you are — and who you are not?

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2. In the days following the Call announcement, what do/did you know about the church where your husband was called? What questions about the church and/or your husband's position linger(ed)?

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3. During our transition from the seminary to the parish where my husband was called, God worked on my humility. In what area of your life might God be working on you right now?

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4. What things were easy to let go of from the seminary years? What things were not so easy to let go of?

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5. Read Proverbs 19. What words or phrases of wisdom stand out to you in this current moment?

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6. Having your heart in multiple places is hard and beautiful. Where is your heart right now? Read Hebrews 13:8 and Isaiah 40:8 and take comfort in our unchanging Father.

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7. What are some advantages of transition and starting over?

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8. Do you have any stories about connecting with other congregation members in their vocations outside of church? For example, have you sought an oil change from a mechanic who belongs to the church or used day care services from someone in the church who runs a day care?

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9. Where do you go for services such as a doctor, dentist or counselor? How did you make these types of connections in your community when you needed them? Does your position in the church influence who you reach out to for certain services? Why or why not?

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## II: Community in the Church

1. Have you received support or blessings from unexpected places during your husband's tenure in the church?

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2. In what ways have you gotten to know members of the congregation your husband serves?

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3. Did you branch out or have you branched out in an effort to get to know people in your community who are NOT part of the congregation? If so, how did you engage these people?

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4. Were you interested in meeting or connecting with people outside of the church? Why or why not?

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5. Did you have a best friend or close friends during your time at the seminary? Consider reaching out to someone who you were close with during the seminary years. Who would it be?

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6. Do you see yourself as a fixer? Explain your answer.

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### III: Contentment and Sacrifice in the Church

1. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9. Identify some weaknesses that you and/or your husband have. Where might Christ be working in your or your husband's weaknesses right now?

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2. Think back to when your husband first started seminary. What qualified him for pastoral ministry? Do you see those same qualifications now that he is a pastor? Do you see other qualities you didn't recognize before or qualities he has developed since being at the seminary?

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3. Were you concerned about the impact that being a pastor's family would have on your children? If so, what were some of your fears or apprehensions? Now that your husband is in the ministry, do you see any of those fears becoming reality? How have your children processed and adjusted to the role of "pastor's kid"?

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4. How are you filling yourself with God's Word regularly?

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**5.** Balance between church life and home life is one of the most common struggles for pastors and their families. How do you see this balance playing out in your family?

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**6.** As a wife, how do you respond to your husband when he fails to rise above anger, doubt or other weaknesses?

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**7.** Read 2 Corinthians 11:16–33. What does Paul say about the many hardships he endured?

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**8.** Think about the tension of belonging as it relates to your role in the church. Do you feel this tension at work anywhere? Why or why not?

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**9.** As a pastor's wife, do you attend and/or participate in church voter's meetings? Why or why not?

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## IV: Faith in Your Role as a Pastor's Wife

1. List the positive and negative aspects of the circumstances God has allowed in your life at this time. How can God use your life — good and bad — to show His presence, love and grace to those around you?

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2. What part of the transition to being a pastor's wife took (or is taking) the most time for you to adjust to?

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3. List some reasonable expectations a church might have for a pastor's wife and some unreasonable expectations. What makes the reasonable expectations reasonable and the unreasonable ones unreasonable?

### Reasonable:

*To see you in church on a regular basis<sup>1</sup>*

*To relay a non-critical message to your husband ("Please tell Pastor that I loved his children's message last week.")*

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### Unreasonable:

*To have a long and involved conversation about church matters in the middle of the grocery store*

*To relay a critical message to your husband ("Hey, tell Pastor to call me because I want my granddaughter to be baptized.")*

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<sup>1</sup> Many pastors lead more than one church service each week, whether as a result of serving a dual parish or offering multiple services over a weekend. So, it is not reasonable for people to expect to see you at the exact same time and place every week, but it is important that you maintain a regular presence.

**4.** This chapter points out some contradictions that come with being a pastor's wife. For example, you are simultaneously well known and anonymous. You are simultaneously strong and vulnerable. Have these contradictions been true for you? Have you noticed any other contradictions that come with your unique role?

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**5.** How do you find people respond to you when they learn you are the wife of a pastor? Do people seem to be more open to conversation or less open, or does the fact that you're a pastor's wife have little bearing on how they interact with you?

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**6.** When you think of the stereotypical pastor's wife, what comes to mind? Why?

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**7.** Do you consider yourself to be a typical pastor's wife? Why or why not?

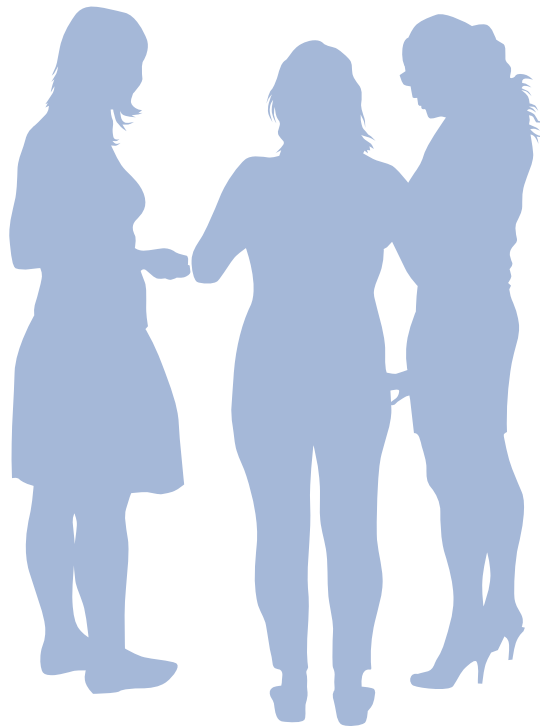
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1333 S. Kirkwood Road  
St. Louis, MO 63122-7295  
888-THE LCMS (843-5267)

*infocenter@lcms.org*  
*lcms.org*