

DISCIPLESHIP

1. Call to Discipleship



(Leader's Notes)

Did you realise that the word 'Christian' is only mentioned in the New Testament several times? Jesus used the word 'disciple'. A real Christian is a disciple. The call to become a disciple wasn't only for the select twelve, but for all who want to follow Christ. Jesus never pretended it would be easy either, but challenged everyone who came to him to take up their cross and follow him. We are going to see what Jesus meant by discipleship.

Scripture Reading: Luke 5:1-11

1. Jesus Calls His Disciples

- ♥ Observe each action of Jesus in verses 1-4. What does this tell you about Jesus' intentions?
(Jesus was wanting to reveal himself more fully to Simon Peter and he was meeting Peter in a way that would be meaningful to him.)
- ♥ One year before this, Peter, James and John had met Jesus and begun to believe. See John 1:35-42. Why do you think Jesus let this time pass before calling them to be his disciples?
(We are not specifically told, but perhaps they were not ready initially. This shows us that God works in our hearts until we are ready, and then calls us to choose to follow him.)
- ♥ What is your story? Was there a time of learning more about Jesus before you accepted him as your Saviour?
- ♥ The way Jesus called his disciples varied. Compare John 1:35-41 and Luke 5:27-28. What are the differences and what are the similarities?
(Jesus invited Levi to follow him, whereas the other two followed Jesus, and then he invited them to come and talk to him. Both received invitations, but the way Jesus approached them was different.)
- ♥ What can we learn from Jesus' example in drawing others to him? Discuss.
(We need to realise that people are different and they respond in different ways. Some will respond to the direct approach as Levi did, while others need time to question and discuss like Andrew and the other disciple did.)

2. Disciples Response to the Call

- ♥ How do you think Peter felt when Jesus asked him to put down his nets into the water?
- ♥ What did Simon Peter realise after this astounding catch of fish? V8-9
(He realised he was unworthy and that he was a sinful man. Initially he had called Jesus 'Master', but now he calls him 'Lord'.
- ♥ What do you think Peter understood by the word 'Lord' at this stage? Do you think his understanding changed as he got to know Jesus more? See Matthew 16:16.
(Peter was certainly in awe of Jesus and recognised he was a man of God, but as he spent time with Jesus he came to understand that he truly was the Son of the Living God.)

- ♥ As you have grown in your Christian life, how has your understanding of who Jesus is grown? Share.

3. Meaning of Discipleship

After Peter's confession, Jesus goes on and calls him to become a disciple.

- ♥ What is the first thing Jesus called Simon Peter and Andrew to do? Mark 1:17
(He was calling them to follow him.)
- ♥ The word 'follow' that Jesus used is in the present continuous tense. Jesus was calling the disciples to keep on following him. When we choose to follow Jesus, he is also calling us to follow him for the rest of our lives here on earth! What does that mean to you? See John 8:31, 14:23-24
(To follow Jesus means to obey his word and do what he has asked us to.)
- ♥ How did the miracle that had taken place with the miraculous catch of fish help Peter understand what his purpose now was? Luke 5:10
(Peter understood about catching fish! Jesus was showing him that he would now be catching men.)
- ♥ Once Peter, James and John had been shown the meaning of their call, how did they respond? Luke 5:11, Mark 1:20
(They left their father, their boats and livelihood to follow Jesus.)
- ♥ What has it meant to you to follow Jesus? Share your story briefly.

If we have chosen to give our lives to Jesus Christ, we too are his disciples. He has called each one of us to follow him. This means we follow his example and obey what he has told us to do. Not only was Peter called to be a fisher of men, we all are. Peter was experienced at catching fish, but Jesus showed him through the miraculous catch of fish that the only way to 'catch men' would be by the power of God. The same is true for you and me. The Holy Spirit will enable us to do what Jesus has called us to do.