

# **DISCIPLESHIP**

## **1. Call to Discipleship**



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?
- ♥ 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?
- ♥ 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?
- ♥ What can we learn from Jesus' example in drawing others to him? Discuss.

#### **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
- ♥ 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.
- ♥ 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
- ♥ 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

- ♥ 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
- ♥ Once Peter, James and John had been shown the meaning of their call, how did they respond? Luke 5:11, Mark 1:20
- ♥ 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.