

Following the Master: Discipleship in Action



Teacher's Guide

Materials

candy (or something else appropriate as a gift); paper and pens or pencils; Bibles

Surveying the Source

Matt. 8:14, 15; 10:34–37; 28:18–20; Luke 5:17–26.

Plotting the Course

The students will:

- ▶ Have a better understanding of what it means to be a disciple.
- ▶ Have a strong scriptural basis on which to base their understanding of

discipleship.

- ▶ Have the opportunity to decide to become a disciple of Christ.

Preparing to Lead

It is quite an honor to become a disciple of someone (see the Logos section of *CQ* for this week). We often think of the life of a Christian as one of hardship, rather than joy. But let me ask you this question: Is it a burden to carry a diamond? This is perhaps the way we should look at

the life of discipleship that we are called to as Christians.

This week we will look at what it means to be a disciple and how we can become better followers of Christ by studying His life and embracing what He has for us.

Getting Started

A. Place the chairs in two rows, perpendicular to the front. Have the first two students who come sit in the first two chairs, and then have those who come after them decide where they want to sit and who they want to sit behind. When it's time for class to begin, give the people in one of the rows a gift (candy or something else). Then make the point that it matters whom you decide to follow in this life. Stress the fact that following some things will lead you to blessing, while following another thing may lead you to destruction.

Then have the students put their chairs back in more conventional rows. Have

the group without the gifts raise their hands, and make sure you have enough gifts to give all of them some as well. That way, everyone will feel good about this illustration.

B. As students walk in, hand them the reproducible activity (p. 39). Be sure you have pens available as well. When they have completed the activity, have them share their answers and tell why they answered as they did.

Ask if there was anyone who did not circle anything. If so, ask them why.

Also discuss what names or things they would put on the list.

Delving Into the Word

A. A quick word search of the New Testament discovers that there are over

75 uses of the word *disciple* in the book of Matthew alone. Using the following

list of texts from Matthew, discuss the impression the students get of Jesus' disciples, what He asked them to do, how well they understood Him, and what He was trying to teach them: ● 4:18 ● 5:1 ● 8:23 ● 8:25 ● 9:10, 11 ● 9:14 ● 9:18, 19 ● 9:35–37 ● 10:1 ● 11:1, 2 ● 11:7 ● 12:1, 2 ● 12:46–49 ● 13:10, 36 ● 14:12 ● 14–26 ● 15:2 ● 15:12 ● 15:21–23 ● 15:32–37 ● 16:5 ● 16:13 ● 16:20–24 ● 17:6 ● 17:10–24 ● 18:1 ● 19:10–25 ● 20:17–29 ● 21:1–20 ● 22:15–17 ● 23:1–5 ● 24:1–3 ● 26:1 ● 26:8 ● 26:17–19 ● 26:26 ● 26:35, 36 ● 26:40 ● 26:45 ● 26:56 ● 27:64 ● 28:7, 8 ● 28:11–13 ● 28:16 ● 28:16–20.

B. The calling of a disciple is some-

times dramatic, but other times quite mundane and understated. Following are a few stories of the disciples being called. Look at them, and ask the class to point out any parallels between the disciples being called and us being called. Also allow for reflective thinking on their personal calls to follow Christ. Ask them if their calling was dramatic or understated. Also ask if they would have liked to have been called dramatically, or if their calling was just right for who they were at the time. Here then are the stories: ● Mark 1:17, 18 ● Mark 1:19, 20 ● Mark 8:34–38 ● Luke 5:1–11 ● Luke 5:27 ● John 1:43.

Discussing the Ideas

1. Do you remember when you first felt as if you were called to be a disciple of Christ? What was it like?
2. What do you think it takes to become a disciple of Christ?
3. If we are all called to be disciples, how does that make itself known in our lives and in our church? Does that mean

that everyone has a responsibility to help make more disciples?

4. If Jesus were to ask you to leave all that you have and follow Him, could you do it? Why or why not?

5. What does it mean to be a disciple on our terms as opposed to Christ's terms?

Closing the Activity

Bring the group together for a time of prayer and thanksgiving. After prayer, ask them to spend some time in the afternoon reflecting on what it means to be a disciple and what it means specifically to them in their lives.

Ask them to think about the following questions: ● When in their lives have they refused to allow God to influence them?

● When have they refused to surrender themselves to the lordship of Christ?

Ask them to spend a bit of time in prayer alone with God in order to hear Him say where He would like them to go. As you send them out, read Matthew 28:19, 20 to them as a blessing for the week.

Tim Gillespie, Loma Linda, California, U.S.A.



Who/What would you rather follow? Circle the best answer.

Mr. Pibb

Dr. Pepper

McDonalds

Burger King

Coke

Pepsi

MTV

VH1

Apples

Oranges

Frichick

Grillers

Breakfast

Dinner

Happy

Unhappy

Crazy

Pretty Normal

Lesson 9

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