

## What Does it Mean to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ?

### A Disciple Answers the Call of Christ

by Annette Gulick 10/1/2001

#### Lesson One

**Lesson Objective:** That students would answer Christ's call in their lives and follow him.

**Bible Passage:** Mt. 4:18-20

**Bible Truth:** Peter at once answered Christ's call and followed him.

**Before you Begin:** participants for skit in "Bible application" section; pencils; copies of handouts "My Life as a Fisherman" and "A Disciple's Contract"

#### Opening:

Ask the students to think of one person that they wish they could be more like. Ask them to form pairs and tell each other their name and who they would like to become more like. Then have them together think of two ways they could become more like that person. For example, if they want to become more like a certain athlete they could spend time practicing skills related to that sport with a friend and they could run three times a week to increase their endurance. When they have finished, have each person introduce their partner to the rest of the group and tell who their partner wants to become more like and one thing they can do towards that end. Then ask,

- *Why did you choose the person you did?*
- *In general what is necessary to become like someone? (Knowing them and what they do; learning from them; imitating them)*

*If you want to become more like someone, you have to know what has contributed to their becoming who they are. When a people follow others, trying to learn from and become like them, the followers can be called "disciples." This relationship is deeper than just that of a student and a teacher. You can have a teacher who teaches you a lot in a specific subject or area, but you become a disciple when you follow a person or movement so much that it affects the way you live. Today we begin a series of lessons that will help us learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ based on the life of Peter.*

#### Interactive Learning

**"Simon Says."** The leader will be "Simon" and will call out a series of instructions, some of which will be prefaced by "Simon says..." and some of which will not. For example, "Simon says, 'raise your right hand'", "Simon says, 'jump up and down'", "stop jumping." Any student who does the indicated action that is NOT prefaced by "Simon says" (for example, "stop jumping") is "out" and should sit down. (Hint: this works best if the leader acts out each instruction regardless of whether they say "Simon says" or not. It really makes it harder.) Continue the game until there is one person left. When you need to move on have the students sit down and then discuss,

- *What was the most important thing to do well in this game? (Listening to the leader.)*
- *What made it hard to stay in the game?*

*Unlike some other people in the world, Jesus always lived out what he taught, so we can learn how to become like him both by studying his teaching and by reading about his life. To help you do this I will be handing out an outline of the book of Mark, broken down into brief sections. Mark is the shortest and easiest to read of all of the Gospels and if you follow the outline you can read the whole book during the course of this series in only about 10 minutes a day. Part of the handout is a contract for you to sign committing to do the readings, so I want you to be thinking about whether you are willing to invest 10 minutes a day towards getting to know Jesus better.*

## Bible Application

Before class, if possible, prepare the following drama with 6 Actors: Jesus, Peter, and 4 students (the students can be any combination of male and female).

Have Peter and the four students at the front of the class, all acting out their assigned activities. The first student sits studying. The second and third are friends at a party, talking, dancing or drinking. The fourth is sitting at the dinner table eating. Peter is mending his fishing nets.

Jesus approaches the first student and says, "Come, follow me." The student responds that she would like to but that right now she has to study for a test so that she can get into the university and get a good job later on. She goes back to studying and Jesus walks on.

Jesus approaches the second and third students and says to one of them, "Come, follow me." The student thinks for a minute, looks at his friend and responds that he really doesn't want to lose his friends and that the people that he has met that follow Jesus aren't very cool. He acts embarrassed and says he didn't mean that personally and assures Jesus that when he is older and has

settled down he will definitely take his kids to church. He focuses on his friend again and Jesus walks on.

Jesus approaches the fourth student and says, "Come, follow me." The student stops eating and tells Jesus that she reads her Bible a lot and really respects what He says but that her family members aren't believers so it is difficult to choose between Jesus and them. Jesus says again, "Follow me." She "looks" at her family and then looks at Jesus and tells him that as soon as the rest of her family believes they will all follow him but until then she really can't follow him.

Jesus then goes up to Peter and says, "Peter, leave your nets and follow me." Peter jumps up and follows Jesus out of the room.

Then ask the students to open their Bibles to Mt. 4:18-20 and read along silently as you read it out loud, then ask,

- *Did you think the skit was true to life? Why or why not?*
- *What are some other reasons that people do not answer the call of Jesus to follow him?*
- *What do you think you would have done if you were Peter and why?*

## Commitment

Explain that every human being is on a spiritual journey, moving either towards or away from God. And so at the start of this series about being a disciple of Jesus it will be helpful for each person to spend a few minutes thinking about where they are in their spiritual journey. Hand out copies of "My Life as a Fisherman" and pencils. Read through it out loud with them and clarify any doubts they have. Assure them that this is private and encourage them to be honest with themselves and God. Give them a few minutes to note where they are. Then say,

*Maybe, while you read this sheet and analyzed your spiritual journey, you realized that you are not where you would like to be in your Christian life, maybe you are struggling with some questions, or maybe you have areas of your life you don't want to give over to God. We're going to take a few minutes so you can write down your thoughts on the back of the sheet. You can even write it like a letter to God if you want. Tell him how you are feeling and ask him for help in areas where you need it. (Give them as much time as they need to write, then continue) Even though you may not talk to him very often, God is very involved in your life. He knows where you are in your spiritual journey and his greatest desire is for you to have an intimate, personal relationship with him. He died on a cross, being punished for sins that weren't his, so that you could become his son or daughter*

***and spend all eternity with him. If you have any questions or want someone to talk to or pray with you, please come and talk with me or with any other believer that you trust.***

***I suggest that you tuck this in your Bible or some other personal place and look at it every now and then to see what God is doing in your life.***

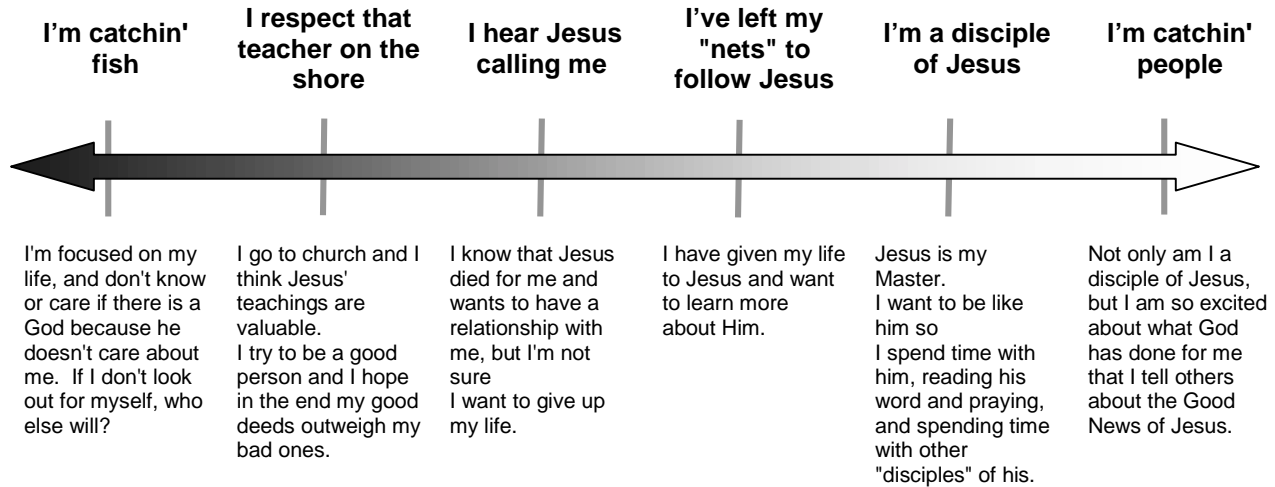
## **Closing**

***As we mentioned earlier one of the most important things about being a disciple of someone is to spend time with them, learning from them. The best way to learn from Jesus is to read about his life here on earth.***

**Pass out, "A Disciple's Contract" and read through the contract with them. Ask them to sign and date the contract, tear it off and give it to you if they have decided they want to do the reading. Remind them that the readings are brief and should take them only five to ten minutes. Point out the section "What I learned about Jesus" where they can make notes to help them remember what they are learning. As you collect the contracts, encourage the students who didn't want to commit to try to do the readings anyway. Close with prayer. (Save the contracts to remind you who committed to do the reading as you check on their progress in the following weeks.)**

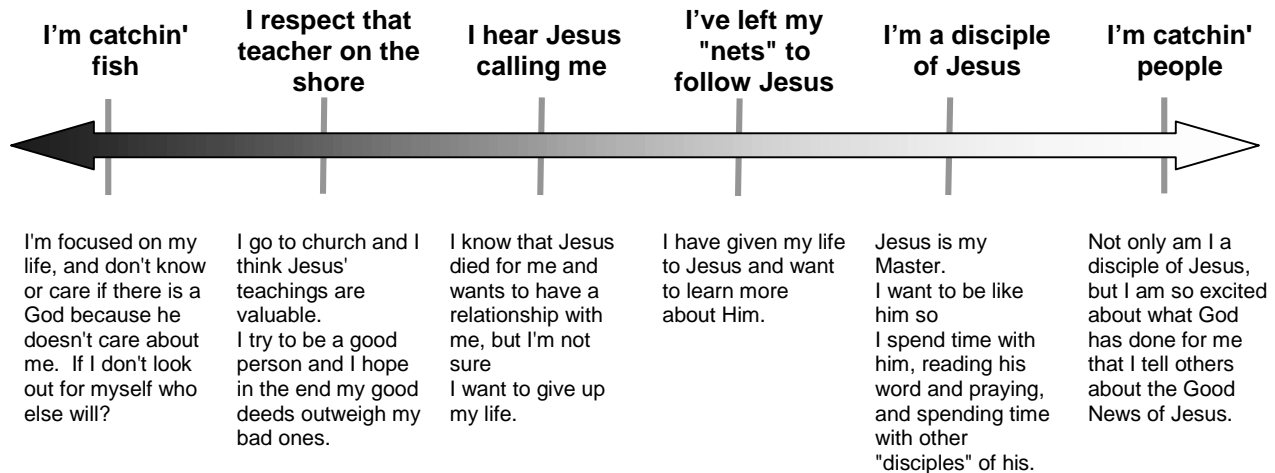
## My Life as a Fisherman

The diagram below shows stages of a person's spiritual journey. Where are you now?



## My Life as a Fisherman

The diagram below shows stages of a person's spiritual journey. Where are you now?



## A Disciple's Contract and Reading Guide for Mark

This outline is to help you read through the book of Mark. Read one or more segments each day and you will have read the entire book in eight weeks. This handout covers the first eight chapters of Mark for the first four weeks.

	<b>Mark Chapter and Verse</b>	<b>What I learned about Jesus</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>1 1: 1-13</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>2 1: 14-20</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>3 1: 21-34</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>4 1: 35-45</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>5 2: 1-12</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>6 2: 13-22</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>7 2: 23— 3:6</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>8 3: 7-19</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>9 3: 20-30</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>10 3: 31-35</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>11 4: 1-20</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>12 4:21-29</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>13 4: 30-34</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>14 4: 35-41</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>15 5: 1-20</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>16 5: 21-43</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>17 6: 1-6</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>18 6: 7-13</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>19 6: 14-29</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>20 6: 30-44</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>21 6: 45-56</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>22 7: 1-23</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>23 7: 24-30</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>24 7: 31- 37</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>25 8: 1-13</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>26 8: 14-21</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>27 8: 22-26</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>28 8: 27— 9: 1</b>	

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## Contract

***I believe that reading about the life of Jesus is an important part of being His disciple. I hereby agree to read through the entire book of Mark during the next eight weeks. I also commit to faithfully attend all class sessions on “What Does it Mean to be a Disciple?” unless I am dead, dying, or out-of-town. I trust that God will bless me with the joy and peace that comes from his presence as I try to get to know him better.***

**Signed**

**Date**