

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

A Disciple Obeys Christ in Every Area of Life

by Annette Gulick 10/1/2001

Lesson Two

Lesson Objective: That students would commit to obey Christ in every area of their lives.

Bible Passage: Luke 5: 1-11

Bible Truth: Peter obeyed Jesus even in areas where he thought he knew better.

Before You Begin:

- ◆ a small piece of candy or piece of gum for each student
- ◆ candy bars [according to your needs as indicated in the opening]
- ◆ extra copies of "Reading Guide for Mark" from last week
- ◆ blackboard or large piece of paper taped to the wall
- ◆ three writing implements for it
- ◆ strips of paper & pencils for each student

Opening:

Before class, review the "contracts" the students filled out and turned into you last week to remind yourself who committed to do the reading. When the students have arrived ask them to raise their hands if they did the reading they promised.

Pass out to those students the small candies, but tell them not to eat them yet, and ask a few of them to share with the rest of the class one of the things that they learned about Jesus from their reading.

Option: Rather than reveal to the entire class who came through and who failed, informally ask how many are doing the reading and what they're getting out of it. If you've got a small "discipleship group" that has accountability built in, asking in class if they've come through may be great. If your group has some less committed members who committed to do the reading, be careful not to ask them about it each week in class. Otherwise, some may not show up next week out of embarrassment of their failure.

A Word to the Leader

Determine the best way to complete this activity based on your group.

- 1) If you have more than one leader: give a candy to each of the students in some way that seems natural, for example "who read any part of Mark last week", "Who read any of the Bible during the week", "Who wasn't here last week to get a reading handout" (make sure to give them a contract handout), "Who remembers whose life we are now studying", "Have a candy because we're just glad you're here today", etc.
- 2) If you have only one leader: pass out the candy as mentioned above but "run out" of candy for the last few people.
- 3) Note: be careful not to show the students if you have any candy left!

When 1) all of the students have a piece or 2) when "all" of the candy has been passed out) act embarrassed in front of the group and say that you don't have enough candy for the other 1) leaders or 2) students. Ask if any student(s) would be willing to share theirs. If so, let them give away their candy. After all who want to give theirs away have done so reward those who shared by giving them a larger, better candy bar. Then ask them:

- *How did you feel when I gave you the better candy bar?*
- *How did the rest of you feel when you saw what happened?*

What happened with the candy is a lot like what happens in our lives. We might think that if we obey God we will lose something, like being popular or having fun, but the truth is that you can never out-give God. Today we are going to see how Peter learned that obeying God in every area of his life brought him unexpected blessings.

Interactive Learning

Draw three columns on the board and write the title "Parents" in the middle column, "Toddlers" and "Teenagers" on the end columns. Divide the students into three teams: 1) the "Toddlers"; 2) the "Teenagers", who will think of things that parents tell them not to do (i.e. Don't touch hot things on the stove; don't stay out past midnight) and 3) the parents who will think of the reasons parents say those things (i.e., they might burn themselves; they could get into trouble.)

Each team should choose one person to write the team's answers on the board while their team calls them out. The "Parents" answers must be responding to what the other teams write. They do not have to respond to each of the other teams' answers; but they get points for every "reason" they put down. Give the teams three to five minutes to write their answers. The team with the most answers on the board wins. Congratulate the winners and then ask:

- *Which was easier, thinking of prohibitions or of the reasons behind them?*

- ***Looking at this list (point to the "parents" column) why do parents make most of the rules they make? [for the good of their children; to protect the kids.]***
- ***Would someone be a good parent if she let a child do anything that the child wanted? Why or why not? The Bible says that, if we have given our lives to Christ, God is our loving father. Because He wants the best for us he has given us guidelines for our lives. One of the ways that obeying God brings blessing to our lives is that He protects us, like a good parent's limits protect their children.***

Bible Application

Explain that, in groups, they will draw a comic strip of the events in the following Bible story. Read, or have a few students read, Luke 5: 1-11. Then break them into groups of four to six and give each group a blank piece of paper and a pencil. Suggest that each group choose one person to draw the comic strip but that everyone in each group should give suggestions helping the artist in its creation. When they have finished, have each group show and explain their comic strip to the rest of the group.

Now that we have a good idea of the events of this story, let's think about the main actor, Simon Peter, and what he was feeling that day.

- ***Before Jesus came around what kind of day was Simon Peter having? (Not very good at all -- v. 5 "we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything.)***

Peter was probably tired, hungry, discouraged and not in a great mood. Then Jesus showed up.

- ***How do you think Simon felt when Jesus chose his boat to teach the people from? (Probably pleased to help, grateful, maybe proud.)***

As we saw, (possibly point to one of the frames on a comic strip depicting this) after Jesus finished teaching he said to Peter "put into deep water and let down the nets for a catch."

- ***If you were Peter what do you think you would have said? Why?***
- ***What did Peter do? Why?***
- ***Peter had been a fisherman all of his life, and was probably the son of a fisherman. Jesus on the other hand was a carpenter and a son of a carpenter. What happened when the fisherman listened to the carpenter, who was also God in flesh, and went back out in the lake to try to catch fish? (v. 6,7)***

- ***What lesson(s) can we apply to our lives from this story? (we should obey God and trust that when he tells us to do something that it is for our own good, etc.)***

Commitment

Hand out to each student a strip of paper and a pencil, as you explain:

As we saw last week in the diagram "My Life as a Fisherman", there is a big difference between "respecting" Jesus as a good teacher and being his disciple, in other words, making him your Lord. Very often people don't want the "religious" part of their life to "get mixed up" with the "rest" of their lives. They may think they do this because they don't want to become a "religious fanatic" but the real reason is usually because they think God might ask them to change the way they think and act. As we saw in Peter's life, if he had kept Jesus out of his work -- his fishing -- he would never have known what a blessing Jesus had for him.

I want each of you to think of an area of your life that your heart knows you've been trying to keep Jesus out of. It might be at work, at school, or in your finances where you don't want Jesus to come and "mess it up." It could be with your friends or girlfriend or boyfriend, or maybe it's how you act on the playing field or with your family. Be honest with yourself and with God. Ask him to show you what you need to change, and ask him for the power to do it.

Have them write on the paper the area of their lives and fold the paper in half. Then collect the papers, mix them up and pass them out so that each student has one. Then, beginning with yourself, go around the room and have each person pray out loud that God would help everyone in the group to completely give over to Him the area of life written on the piece of paper they are holding.

Closing

In closing I would like you to listen to this excerpt from the book "The Greatest Thing in the World" by Henry Drummond.

You remember the profound remark which Paul makes elsewhere, "love is the fulfilling of the law." Did you ever think what he meant by that? In those days men were working the passage to heaven by keeping the Ten Commandments, and the hundred and ten other commandments which they had manufactured out of them. Christ came and said, "I will show you a more simple way. If you do one thing, you will do these hundred and ten things without ever thinking about them. If you love, you will unconsciously fulfill the whole law."

You can readily see for yourselves how that must be so. Take any of the commandments. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." If a man love God, you will not have to tell him that. Love is the fulfilling of that law.... "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." Would he not be too glad to have one day in seven to dedicate more exclusively to the object of his affection? Love would fulfill all these laws regarding God.

And so if he loved man, you would never think of telling him to honor his father and mother. He could do nothing else. It would be preposterous to tell him not to kill. You could only insult him if you suggested that he should not steal -- how could he steal from those he loved? ...In this way "love is the fulfilling of the law." It is the rule for the fulfilling of all rules, the new commandment for keeping all the old commandments, Christ's one secret of the Christian life.

This week I challenge you to live like a disciple of Jesus Christ by obeying him in every area of your life, in other words, by loving God and those around you in a biblical way. I encourage you all to sit down for a few minutes later today and read the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians as a reminder of God's description of love.