



SESSION 3

# FOLLOWING JESUS

Jesus calls every person to follow Him.



# WORSHIP

## READING PLAN

Read through the following Scripture passages this week. Use the space provided to record your thoughts and responses.

### **Day 1**

Mark 10:17-31

### **Day 2**

Mark 16:14-20

### **Day 3**

Luke 9:57-62

### **Day 4**

Luke 10:25-37

### **Day 5**

John 15:1-17

### **Day 6**

Romans 10:1-18

### **Day 7**

2 Timothy 2:1-26

## 3 D'S OF A TRUE DISCIPLE

A 3-D object is fully formed. It's not a flat, one-dimensional image or even two-dimensional with only length and width. It's fully formed with length, width, and depth, and usually lifelike. Jesus never called for some kind of one-dimensional, shallow commitment or lip service. He was looking for fully devoted followers. So let's use three Ds to define a true disciple of Jesus. A true disciple is:

**1. Devoted to Jesus.** Jesus said, "Follow Me ... and I will make you fish for people" (Matt. 4:19). Jesus' favorite invitation was simply, "Follow Me." He used it 24 times in the Gospels. Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him, and they dropped everything. He spoke those words to Matthew, the hated tax collector, and Matthew left everything to follow Jesus (see Mark 2:14). The same invitation was extended to Philip from Bethsaida, and he followed Jesus (see John 1:43). He spoke those words to casual observers who praised Him with their words but were unwilling to change their lifestyles (see Luke 9:59-62). He even spoke that invitation to a wealthy, young ruler who chose to hold onto his own money and power rather than follow Jesus (see Mark 10:21-22). Jesus invited everyone to follow Him. But what does it mean to "follow Jesus"? For starters, it means to be devoted to Jesus by placing your trust and faith in Him for salvation.

*How do Matthew 4:17; Acts 2:36-41; and Ephesians 2:8-9 describe how a person becomes a follower of Jesus?*

**2. Developing the attitudes and priorities of Jesus.** Jesus saw the potential in these fishermen, but it would take time with Jesus to develop them into trained followers. Over the next two years, they would begin to develop the same attitudes and priorities as Jesus.

### **Love for one another:**

By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

**JOHN 13:35**

### **Self denial, even death:**

<sup>34</sup> Summoning the crowd along with His disciples, He said to them, "If anyone wants to be My follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me and the gospel will save it."

**MARK 8:34-35**

### **Learning and living the Word of God:**

<sup>31</sup> If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples. <sup>32</sup> You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

**JOHN 8:31-32**

### **Allegiance to Jesus above all other allegiances:**

<sup>25</sup> Now great crowds were traveling with Him. So He turned and said to them: <sup>26</sup> “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, and even his own life—he cannot be My disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

**LUKE 14:25-27**

***Would you say that the character and priorities of Jesus are being reflected in your life? Why or why not?***

**3. Deployed to make disciples who make disciples.** Jesus said, “Follow Me . . . and I will make you fish for people!” (Matt. 4:19). No longer were these men going to settle for just fishing; now they were going to fish for people. From this point forward they were going to be captivated by a greater vision of multiplying disciples and taking the message of Jesus across the globe. And this is the same vision Jesus cast to His disciples throughout all generations.

<sup>18</sup> Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**MATTHEW 28:18-20**

A disciple is a person who is devoted to Jesus, developing the character/priorities of Jesus, and deployed to make disciples who make disciples. A true disciple is devoted, developed, and deployed.

***In what areas of life have you experienced consistent spiritual growth?  
In what areas do you still need to grow?***



## FISHING LESSONS

The word *disciple* is a term used for a follower of Jesus. It's an important word. It comes from the Greek word *mathetes*, which means "a learner." In Jesus' day a disciple was a person who followed a master to learn from him and to ultimately carry out his work. The Hebrew word *taladim* carried the same meaning: "a learner." It was often used to describe a scholar or rabbi in training. So *disciple* became the first word used to describe the followers of Jesus. It appears at least 230 times in the Gospels and 28 times in the Book of Acts. But what does a true disciple of Jesus look like?

In Luke 4:31–5:31 Jesus led His disciples on six "fishing trips" to train them how to fish for people. Read and study each passage and write down what lessons the disciples are learning about "fishing." Notice who they are fishing for, what they do, and the final result.

### **Fishing trip 1—Luke 4:31-37**

### **Fishing trip 2—Luke 4:38-44**

### **Fishing trip 3—Luke 5:1-11**

### **Fishing Trip 4—Luke 5:12-16**

### **Fishing Trip 5—Luke 5:17-26**

### **Fishing Trip 6—Luke 5:27-31**

What has God been teaching you about your own “fishing”? What is He instructing you to do? God has likely been taking you on your own fishing trip and has been equipping you with gospel nets to cast out. He is training you and teaching you concerning what it means to follow after Him. How will you respond?

1. As quoted in Rod Dempsy, *Disciple Making Is ... How to Live the Great Commission with Passion and Confidence* (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2013), 90.