

## THE CALL OF JESUS

Purpose: This study clears up common misconceptions about what it means to be a follower of Jesus and inspires the seeker to answer the true call of Jesus.

### Acts 11:25-26

Q: According to this passage of Scripture, what was the name of the place where the word Christians was used for the first time to describe people?

Q: Who was called Christians at Antioch?

Q: What does the term "disciple" mean?

Followers or "disciples" of Jesus were called "Christians" after Jesus' death, burial and resurrection later in the first century. Jesus never referred to his disciples as Christians; rather his disciples were given that name.

Q: Is it possible to be a Christian and not be a disciple?

The terms "disciple" and "Christian" are synonyms. Disciples are Christians and vice versa.

### Mark 1:14-20

In this passage, we read about the beginning of Jesus ministry and him calling people to follow him meaning become his disciples.

Q: What did Jesus call these men to do?

Q: What were these men initially preoccupied with doing with their lives?

All of them fished for a living. James and John were working for the fathers business. Nevertheless, Jesus wanted them to be about helping other people become His followers (His disciples).

Q: Which do you think is easier to do, to catch fish or the help people become followers (disciples) of Jesus?

Q: How did they all respond to what Jesus called them to do?

They committed and dedicated themselves to being taught and trained how to fish for people for Jesus (essentially how to make disciples Jesus).

Q: Are you involved in the process of helping people become disciples of Jesus?

### Luke 9:23-26

Q: What does it mean to deny yourself? (Not doing your will, but doing the will of God – **Matthew 26:36-39**)

Q: What does it mean to "...take up your cross daily"? (Crucifying and put to death your sinful nature daily – living for Jesus)

Q: What does it mean to be ashamed of Jesus and His words?

Q: Does this expectation of Jesus of what it means to be a disciples of Jesus describe your life today?

### Luke 14:25-33

Q: Do you believe that Jesus wants us to hate the people closest to us in our lives? (No.)

Q: What is Jesus asking of anyone who follows Him? (To put him first; to make Him their most important relationship and priority.)

Q: Have you made your relationship with Jesus the most important thing in your life and your #1 priority?

Q: Can we be a disciple of Jesus if we do not make this decision?

Q: What does the parable about the tower mean? (We should sit down and consider the cost of building a relationship with Jesus. We cannot follow thoughtlessly without considering the cost.)

Q: What does the parable of the two kings mean? (We must be willing to surrender everything in our lives in order to follow Jesus.)

Q: Are you willing to go anywhere, do anything, and give up everything for Jesus and His gospel?

Q: Can we be a disciple of Jesus if we are not willing to have this attitude?

### Mark 10:17-31

Q: Did the man in this story want to go to be saved and go to heaven? (Yes.)

Q: How can you tell? (He asked the question and he was striving to live a moral lifestyle.)

Q: What did Jesus call him to do if he wanted to have eternal life? ("*Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.*")

Q: Why did Jesus call him to do such a radical thing?

Matthew 6:19-21 reads... "*Where your treasures are, there your heart will be.*" Jesus wants our whole heart!

Q: How did the man respond to Jesus' call? ("*He went away sad.*")

Q: What did Jesus tell his disciples after the man went away? (It is hard for those who have lots of treasures on earth...the more you have [the more that you treasure on earth] the more difficult to sacrifice everything and have eternal life!)

Q: How did the disciples respond to this radical call? (Amazement! They asked, "*Who can be saved?*")

But even though it is difficult, Jesus told his disciples – "*all things are possible with God.*"

Q: What is the promise of Jesus if we are willing to go anywhere, do anything, and give up everything for Him and the gospel based on v29-31? (We will receive a hundred times the blessings in this life and eternal life in the age to come!)

Jesus also promises us persecutions.

Q: Are you willing to endure persecution for Jesus?

### Luke 11:1-4

The disciples expressed to Jesus their need for help and instruction in the area of prayer..

Q: What is your prayer life like?

Q: Has anyone ever taught you to how pray?

Q: Do you think that it's important to go to God in prayer daily? (Refer to Exodus 16.)

We shouldn't only look to Jesus for help and instruction when it comes to prayer. We should look to Jesus for help and instruction when it comes to every part of our life.

Q: What other parts of your life could use some help and instruction from Jesus?

**Matthew 28:18-20**

Q: Who has "all authority" in heaven and on earth? (Jesus.)

Q: What did Jesus call these disciples to do? (Make disciples.)

Q: What did Jesus want all the people of the world to become? (Disciples.)

This is Jesus' plan to save the world!

<b>Year</b>	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Disciple</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>4745</b>	<b>8192</b>
<b>32</b>	<b>11,680</b>	<b>The world, 5 billion plus</b>

Q: Is it clear to you what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?

Q: Have you ever made the decision to become a disciple based on what Jesus says being His disciple means?

Q: Are you living the life/lifestyle of what Jesus says being His disciple means right now? (Meaning making your relationship with Him your most important relationship, acknowledging and not being ashamed to share the gospel of Jesus, fishing for men for Jesus, etc.)

Q: If not, do you want to be a disciple?

Q: Based on the scriptures we have looked at, what is Jesus calling you to do now?

**Additional verses:**

**Luke 9:57-62** – We cannot follow Jesus thoughtlessly. He calls us to follow without making excuses and without looking back to our former lives. Notice the connection between following him and proclaiming the kingdom of God.

**John 8:30-31** – If you hold to His teachings you are really Jesus' disciple.

**Matthew 10:26-39** – Fear God. Acknowledge God. Put God first. Take up your cross, follow Jesus.

**1 John 2:3-6** – We cannot know Jesus and not obey him. Anyone who claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did.

**1 John 5:1-5** – Love for God is obeying God's commands.