

True Discipleship

KEY THEME

- God demands obedience and trust.

KEY PASSAGES

- Matthew 16:24–26, 22:36–37
- Luke 14:26



What You **HEARD** in the **WORD**

- A disciple (or follower) of Jesus loves Jesus above all else and is willing to give up all the world has to offer for Him.
- A disciple (or follower) of Jesus will want to live a life that pleases Jesus—not himself.

Answer these questions from today's lesson.

- 1 What must we be willing to deny before we can follow Jesus?
- 2 Who should always be the first, most important thing in our life?
- 3 What is the great commandment?



Read the Word

Monday {James 1:2}

When we face a trial, what should we do?

Tuesday {James 1:3}

What do trials produce in us?

Wednesday {Matthew 6:19–20}

What type of treasures are we to work for?

Thursday {Acts 21:13}

The Apostle Paul was a follower of Jesus. What was he willing to do for the Lord?

Friday {1 John 3:16}

What sacrifice should followers of Jesus be willing to make since Jesus gave His life for them?

Saturday {Luke 14:33}

What should a disciple of Jesus be willing to give up or forsake?

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Learn the Word

Write the letter that comes before each letter in the box below it.

k	f	t	v	t

said to him, "I am

u	s	v	u	i

the way, the _____, and the

m	j	g	f

p	o	f

. No _____ comes

f	y	d	f	q	u

to the the Father

n	f

through _____ . John 14:6

LIVE the Word

Suppose you hear someone say that when a person becomes a Christian his life becomes better than ever. **What could you say?**

When a person becomes a Christian, he does have a lot to celebrate—forgiveness of sins, the hope of eternal life with God, the Holy Spirit living within him giving wisdom and power, true joy, peace, and love. That's all part of a better life, yes. But a lot of people forget that Jesus said those who follow Him will have a hard road with trials and persecution. He said they should deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Him. Jesus told His disciples they may have to give up everything—even their lives—for the sake of the gospel! This sounds terrible, I know. But the reward Jesus offers is an eternity with Him. And eternity with Jesus makes all the glamour and glitz of this world pale in comparison.



Follow Jesus His Way

STEP ONE: Read the phrases listed below. If the phrases match what Jesus demanded of His followers, circle the letter in the "YES" column. If the phrases do not belong because Jesus did not use them to describe His true disciples, circle the letter in the "NO" column.

Did Jesus say this about His followers?

1. Let him deny himself.
2. He will love himself.
3. Let him take up his cross.
4. Let him follow Me.
5. Let him desire riches and fame.
6. He loves his brother more than God.
7. He's willing to lose His life for My sake to find it.
8. He will want Me to be first in his life.

YES	NO
D	R
A	I
S	O
C	S
M	I
Y	P
L	K
E	U

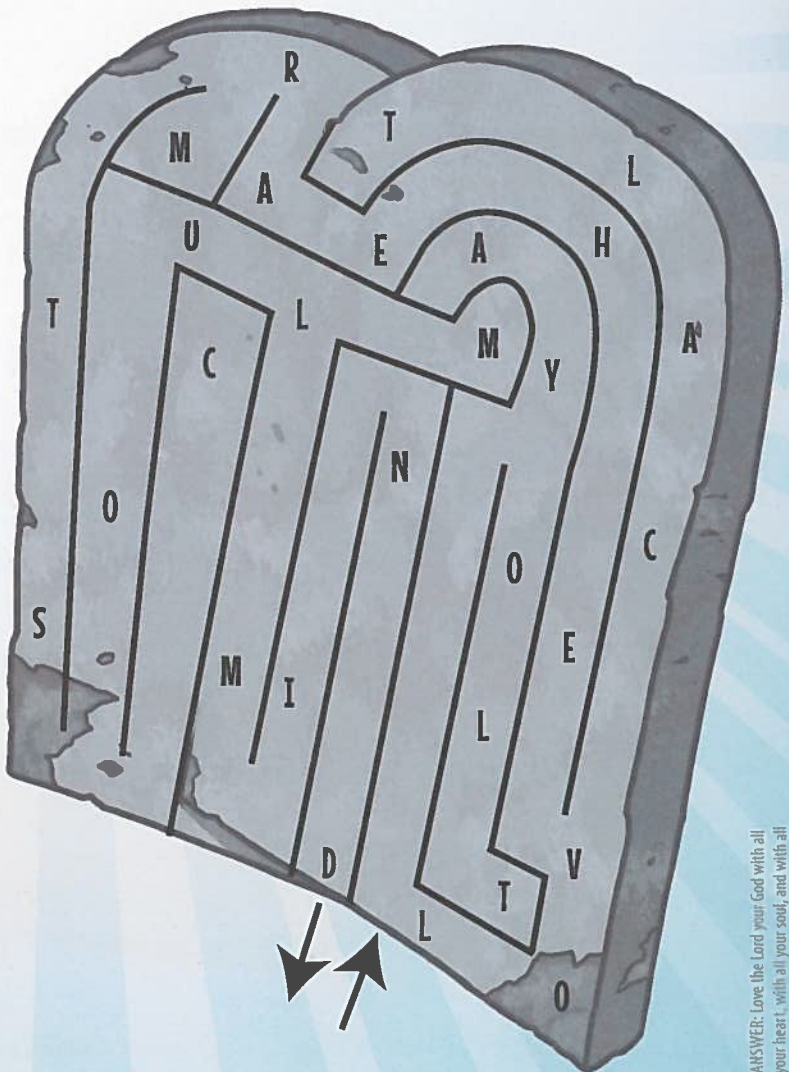
STEP TWO: Write all of the circled letters in order on the blanks below. These letters will spell out a word that means "follower of Jesus."

ANSWER: Disciple

The Greatest Commandment

What did Jesus expect from His followers? To find out, work your way through the maze gathering the letters along the way. Put the letters in the blanks below in the order you find them.

_____ the Lord your God
 with all your _____, with
 all your _____, and with all
 your _____. Matthew 22:37



ANSWER: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.



SNEAK PEEK
 Why did people get so angry that they wanted to kill Jesus? Come next week to find out!

HomeWord

For Parents

What did Jesus expect of those who would be His true disciples? That was a very important question in Jesus's time, and it remains important today. Many proclaiming Christians have not considered what Jesus has told us in His Word.

The first and the greatest commandment, according to Jesus, is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind (Matthew 22:37–38). But Jesus went on to tell us more explicitly what He wanted from His disciples.

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:24–26).

Jesus asks much of His followers. He wants us to deny ourselves, to lose our lives, and to forsake the things of the world. This is a call for submission and obedience to His Word (John 14:23). This is a call to put Jesus above the people in our lives that are dearest to us—father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters—and to love the Lord Jesus Christ so much that we would be willing to give up our very lives for Him (Luke 14:26).

In all of this, Jesus Christ is calling His disciples to take up their cross daily and follow Him (Luke 9:23). That cross includes anything that would lead us to consider ourselves over our Savior. Jesus requires that we put aside our own selfish desires and ambitions in all things and that we mimic Christ in His obedience to God (Philippians 2:4–8). Jesus's followers—His disciples—must be willing to forsake the world and all it offers for His sake (1 John 2:15–17).

Go to the Online Resource Page for more information.

OutWord

For Family Discussion

Suppose your friend says becoming a follower of Christ just sounds too hard! It wouldn't be any fun to give everything up.

What could you say?

You are right. Being a follower of Jesus is not easy! The Bible tells us we have to deny ourselves. We have to be willing to give up the things we love in this world—and make sacrifices for Jesus. People who don't believe in Jesus just can't do this. But, it isn't that hard for believers who have admitted they are sinners, asked for forgiveness, turned away from their sins, and turned to Jesus Christ and His Word. You see, once you believe and accept Jesus's free gift of salvation, your heart will change. As you learn more about Jesus, you will realize that you WANT to do what pleases Him. You WANT to obey His call on your life. And you WANT to give up the things in your life that you know don't please Him. And I believe that the reward Jesus promises—eternal life with Him—promises more joy than anything this world has to offer.

inWord

For Family Study

“The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver” (Psalm 119:72). Equip your children to desire God's Word above all else by encouraging your family to memorize and study it. The eternal rewards are priceless.

Begin with the memory verse in the Learn the Word section inside this handout.

