**Be a Disciple**

Every Christian is called to be a disciple. This term “disciple” can mean many things to many different people. Are you familiar with this term? What do you think it means?

Jesus defines what a disciple is for us in one short verse. This verse is packed with meaning so don’t let the length fool you.

**"Follow Me," He told them, "and I will make you fish for people!"**

**Matthew 4:19**

1. A disciple is someone who is Following Christ. (“Follow me”)
* Following means that we recognize and accept who Jesus is. He is the one who initiates and guides. In turn, we respond to his leadership and direction. Following Jesus means acknowledging that Jesus is in front and we must place ourselves behind him. What are some ways in which you are actively following Jesus right now?
1. A disciple is someone who is being changed by Jesus. (“I will make you”)
* To be a disciple means that we need to understand that Jesus will mold our hearts to be more like him. We assume that people need to clean up their lives before following Jesus but it is Jesus who invites us to follow him so he can change us. What is Jesus changing in you lately? What do you think needs to change?
1. A disciple is someone who is committed to Jesus’ mission of saving people from their sins. (“Fish for people”)
* In other words, we are saved for a purpose. When we spend time with Jesus, his Holy Spirit begins to work on us from the inside out. We begin to care about the things he does, especially lost people. We are all ministers of Christ and have God-given abilities that can be used for God to glorify him. How are you participating in God’s mission right now?

 **Being a disciple is a journey full of purpose and joy!**

**“When you obey My commandments, you remain in My love, just as I obey My Father’s commandments and remain in His love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with My joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!” John 15:10**

Why does obeying and following Jesus bring so much joy into your life?

“We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” C. S. Lewis

Can you explain what C.S. Lewis means in this quote? How does this apply to our lives?

**Being a disciple demands commitment**

**“As they were walking along the road, a man said to Him, ‘I will follow you wherever you go.’ Jesus replied, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.’ He said to another man, ‘Follow me.’ But the man replied, ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.’ Still another said, ‘I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family.’ Jesus replied, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’” Luke 9:57–62**

What point is Jesus trying to make by these intense statements? How can we avoid making excuses about not following Christ?

 **“Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?” Matt 16:24–26**

What does Jesus mean by “take up your cross and follow Me?” In what areas is it hardest for you to follow Jesus? What other principles can we draw from this passage?

Let’s brainstorm three lists: one for the cost of discipleship, another for the benefits, and one more for the cost of non-discipleship.

COST BENEFIT COST OF NON-DISCIPLESHIP