

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 4 • Unit 3 • Week 1

BEING A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

OBJECTIVE:

To help the students understand the cost of becoming a disciple, or follower, of Jesus Christ by showing them the definition of a disciple, the characteristics of a disciple and the need to serve others.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Do: Use a fishing pole with a magnet in place of the hook. Make paper fish with the scripture "Then Jesus said to them, 'Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men'" (Matthew 4:19) written on them. Put a paper clip on each. If there is time, the students can make these themselves. Have the students fish for paper fish. When each child gets a fish, have them read the scripture.

Ask: What does it mean?

BIBLE LESSON:

Ask: Do any of you know the definition of a disciple?

Do: Read Matthew 4:18-22. Read with enthusiasm and expression. Use props and objects where you can with this and other scriptures (for instance, fish net, toy boat, salt, building tools or bricks). When you ask questions, listen to the children's answers, encourage them and respond with enthusiasm.

"And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.' They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets..."

Ask: What was Jesus asking them to do? Were they being called by God? What did the disciples decide to do?

Say: So the first thing a disciple does is make a decision to follow Christ.

Ask: What does a follower do?

Say: Christ is our teacher. A disciple will learn all that he or she can and be a learner, a student, at the feet of the Great Teacher.

Ask: Where do we go to learn about Jesus and what He wants us to do? Does Christ want His disciples to be something more than followers? Does He have a work for them to do? Did Jesus develop the leadership of His disciples?

Say: The leaders are to serve and help the people they lead.

Ask: Did Jesus prepare them for future roles?

Say: Their future lives would test their courage to the last measure.

Ask: Did Jesus send the disciples out on their own?

Do: Read Mark 6:7 "And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits."
Read Acts 9:36. "At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did."

Ask: Was Tabitha a disciple? Was she a Christian? What was she known for? Should we also serve others? What are some of the good works we could do? What are some of the ways you can serve others? So, what is a disciple? What does a disciple do?

Say: A disciple is a follower, a learner, a student, someone called by God, a Christian.

Do: Read Luke 14:25-26. "Now great multitudes went with Him [Jesus]. And He turned and said to them, 'If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.'"

Say: What! This is shocking! Does Jesus expect His disciples to hate themselves and their families? Quick! Someone look up Matthew 10:37-38—"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take up his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."

Ask: What does it really mean?

Do: Read Luke 14:27-30. "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'"

Ask: What is the first step of a wise builder? Why is this important?

Do: Read Luke 14:31-35. "Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Ask: What is the first step of a wise king? What is Jesus trying to teach His disciples? Does it take courage and commitment to be a follower of Jesus? What does it cost? Why do you think Jesus almost seems to discourage people from following Him rather than encouraging them?

Ask: What about you? Think about this: When it comes to following Jesus or following the crowd I usually follow _____. Jesus wants His followers to become courageous leaders. Where do you go to gain courage?

Ask: Now let's also think about the rewards of following Christ. What are the benefits we gain by being disciples of Christ?

Say: The long-term rewards make it well worth the costs. In the end, it costs more NOT to follow Him.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Bring gingerbread men and gingerbread women cookies. Bring frosting and candies, paper plates and knives. Have the children decorate the cookies while emphasizing that Jesus was bringing the disciples from being fishermen to fishers of men.

MUSIC:

Sing page 75 or 85 from the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 4:19 "Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Use the paper fish to remind them of the memory verse. Encourage them to decorate the fish while working on memorizing the scripture.

family activity

THE POINT:

To help the students understand the cost of becoming a disciple, or follower, of Jesus Christ by showing them the definition of a disciple, the characteristics of a disciple and the need to serve others.

ASK ME...

- What is a disciple?
- What does a disciple do?
- What is the first step of a wise builder?
- Does Christ have a work for His disciples and followers?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Take the family fishing and talk about two sets of brothers who fished—Peter and Andrew, James and John. These men were called by Jesus, the Son of God. These brothers left their fishing boats to follow Christ to become “fishers of men.” If a fishing trip isn’t possible, go to a pet shop and look at the many kinds of fish.

Plan to do some good works as a family. Examples: Visit a shut-in church member or write notes and send pictures to a shut-in.

Fill in the missing words:

Matthew 4:18-22 “And Jesus, walking by the _____ of _____, saw two brothers, Simon called _____, and _____ his brother, casting a net into the _____; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them ‘_____ Me, and I will make you _____ of _____.’ They _____ left their _____ and _____ Him.”

Acts 9:36 “At _____ there was a certain disciple named _____, which is translated Dorcas. This women was full of _____ and charitable _____ which she did.”

Luke 14:27-30 “And whoever does not _____ his cross and come after Me cannot be My _____. For which of you, intending to build a _____, does not sit down first and _____ the cost, to see whether he has enough to _____ it—lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to _____, all who see it will begin to mock him, saying, ‘This _____ began to build and was not able _____.’”

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 4:19 “Then Jesus said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’”