

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 5 • Unit 3 • Week 1

THE VALUE OF DISCIPLESHIP

OBJECTIVE:

To show the incredible value of being called and chosen. To help the students see that God not only promises future rewards but also present happiness.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Ask: Which would you rather receive: A pat on the back or a bump on the head?

Say: The answer seems simple, yet God asks us this all the time. Turn to Deuteronomy 30:19. [Ask a child to read this scripture.]

Say: God wants us to choose life AND He wants us to be His disciples. Today we are going to learn about being a disciple.

Ask: What does the word disciple mean? What does the idea mean?

BIBLE LESSON:

God wants each of you to be a member of His very own family. He takes your part in His family seriously.

Imagine that you are a member of a royal family, a prince or princess. Think about the power and authority that you would have in that family. Now imagine that you are a part of God's family in the Kingdom. Think of how much power and authority you will have as a called and chosen member of God's family.

When we celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles each year, we are being given a glimpse of the world tomorrow and the joy that it will hold. In the world tomorrow we will have a wonderful time, yet we will also have responsibilities. Being chosen by God today, means that in the world tomorrow we will be teachers to those who never knew God's way. We can learn today to be teachers tomorrow. We can

begin learning each Sabbath, as we come together as God's family. Remember, our immediate family (brothers, sisters, mom and dad), along with our local church, are all part of the potential, overall, big family of God. All these brethren are disciples of Christ. What is a disciple?

Any good dictionary will tell you that a disciple is a pupil, a follower, a learner, a student. You certainly can relate to that, because you are all students. That is your primary job. But you can also be students of Christ. You can learn by coming to church and by following your parent's example. But the most important teacher is Jesus, and His example is found in the Bible. There are many different aspects of discipleship, but we are going to focus on only one: Practice what you preach.

Now let's read what Jesus Christ said in Luke 6:46. [Have someone read aloud while everyone else reads silently.] What He meant was, "If you say you are a student, a pupil, a follower of Me, you need to do what I tell you to do." Let's read Luke 6:47. What did Jesus tell them (us) to do?

The main thing He wanted us to do was to be like Him (Luke 6:40). We must try to live our lives like He lived His life. Christ loved His enemies, cared for the poor and served all humanity, even though He was the Son of God. If we want to be His true disciples (students), we must do what He did (Luke 6:27-36). We must follow the golden rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." We must love everyone—even our enemies—and serve all people. If we strive to follow Christ's example, we will become "sons of the Highest" and someday, teachers in God's Kingdom.

There are always rewards for following God's way. God promises His children many things if they are good disciples. Here are some examples: If we follow Jesus Christ, we will have treasure reserved in heaven (Matthew 19:21, Mark 10:17-22).

If you learn to serve, you will be considered great (Matthew 20:25-28). If we continue to follow Jesus until His return, we will be rulers in His Kingdom. If we serve God's children today, we will have a place in God's Kingdom (Matthew 25:34-45).

Treasure, greatness, rulership and the Kingdom are all promised to those who are the true disciples of Jesus Christ. God wants us to live in a way that will make us happy forever. God, through Jesus Christ, explains how to do that (Mark 10:15). Christ wants us to simply accept what He says. He wants us to recognize that He knows best and to trust Him. He wants us to accept His words as little children.

Do: Summarize Mark 10:17-31 for the students.

If we are true disciples of Christ, we are promised many rewards. Yet we must be prepared to sacrifice for Christ's sake. Remember Christ gave His life for us. What are we willing to give up for Him? That is the simple truth revealed in Mark 10:29-30. That is the basic message of discipleship.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Say: Let's reinforce the essential features, which concern the rewards of discipleship.

Do: Get some paper for each student and a pen or pencil.

Ask: What rewards does Jesus promise for us as His disciples? [The answers are found in Mark 10:29-30, 43-45; Matthew 19:29; 20:25-28. Let them work together. Have them write down as many rewards as they can in five minutes.]

God promises us many physical and spiritual rewards. Yet, these rewards are only given if we strive to follow Jesus Christ, if we become His disciples. There are “persecutions” or trials that come with being disciples (Mark 10:30). As Christ’s disciples, we are blessed and challenged. In a treasure hunt there is hard work to be done to reach the treasure. There is also hard work to be done to reach our treasure in the Kingdom. Just remember, we have the map to lead us to our treasure: the Bible.

MUSIC:

Sing “God Is Calling Children,” p. 51 of United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

Mark 10:29-30 “So Jesus answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sister or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and, children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.’”

family activity

THE POINT:

To show the incredible value of being called and chosen. To help the students see that God not only promises future rewards but also present happiness.

ASK ME...

What does a disciple do?

What does Christ promise His followers?

What does Mark 10:29-30 mean?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Talk about sacrifices that your family (individually and collectively) have made for God's way. Then talk about the blessings you've experienced.

Have a royal meal this Sabbath. Remember: You are future rulers in God's kingdom.

MEMORY VERSE:

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