Making Disciples

Notes for Group Session Three

The Difference Between a Convert and A Disciple

The Cost of Discipleship

Session Goals

1. The disciple will be able to give two differences between being a convert and a disciple.
2. The disciple will identify one thing that God is requiring of them to become a disciple.
3. The disciple will plan steps they can take to make any changes they need to.

Discuss the Previous Week's Action Steps

Take time to discuss the disciples' experiences of sharing their testimonies during the previous week. If they did not have an opportunity, encourage them to attempt it during the coming week.

Review briefly what was discussed in the previous session relating to conversion, and what is required to be born again. During the session contrast that with what scripture says about becoming a disciple.

Becoming Disciples

Jesus chose disciples and we can be His disciples too. To be a disciple means to be a student of His teachings and a follower, a doer of all He has taught and demonstrated to us. Below are scriptures showing us what Jesus is asking of us if you want to be a disciple. In the group, discuss how to apply these to your lives.

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1. Be willing to lose your life.

Matthew 16:24-25 and Luke 9:23 "Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their 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 their soul?

2. Be willing to become something different following him.

Matthew 4:19 "Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men." The occupation of catching fish changed into a mission of fishing for people.

3. Be willing to give up material possessions.

Matthew 19:20-26 The story of the rich young ruler is recounted in three gospels. "Jesus said to the rich young man. "If you want to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven and come follow me." But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property."

4. Be willing to leave your family.

Mark 10:29-31 Jesus tells us there's a cost to following him. He spoke. "I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers and sisters, mothers, children and property, for my sake and for the good news will receive now in return one hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and property, along with persecution. And in the world to come, that person will have eternal life."

Luke 9:57-60 "As they were going along the road, someone said to him, I will follow you wherever you go. And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests. But the son of man has nowhere to lay his head. And he said to another, follow me. But he said, 'Lord, permit me first to go bury my father.' But he said to him, 'allow the dead to bury their own dead but as for you go and proclaim everywhere the Kingdom of God.'"

5. Hold to His teachings.

John 8:31-32 Jesus tells us, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. And then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

6. Keep His commandments daily.

In John 14:15, "Jesus said if you love me, keep my commands." That demonstrates our love and devotion to him. If our hearts are changed by his love, then we obey because we want to, not because we have to.

7. Be a servant.

In Mark 10:42-44, "Jesus called the disciples together. He said, 'You know this, the rulers of the gentiles have great power. Their important officials give many orders to people. You must not behave like that. Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant. Whoever wants to be important must be a slave of all.'" Jesus demonstrated being a servant to His disciples as well as teaching it.

John 13:4-5 "Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around Him."

8. Take up your cross daily.

Luke 9:23 "He was saying to them all, 'if anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'" In other words, do not live for your own desires.

9. Do not Expect the World to Love You.

John 15:18-19 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belong to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world."

10. Be willing to Make Disciples.

Matthew 28:19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit. And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you; and surely, I am with you always to the very end of the age."

2 Timothy 2:2 "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses and trust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

Do you still want to be a disciple? What will be hard for you? What do you think Jesus is asking of you?

Action Steps

- On one occasion this week act in a way that involves giving up your own desires and doing what you think Jesus has for you to do.

- Serve another person this week by helping them in a way you would not have done in the past. Be prepared to talk about these experiences next week.