

Now What? Life After the Cross - Life Group Curriculum

Week 1 – Commissioned to Make Disciples and Witness

Opening questions: Do you consider yourself a disciple of Jesus? If so, how long have you been a disciple of Jesus? How many people have you led to becoming disciples of Jesus?

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:19 & Matthew 16:24

Content and Meaning:

- According to Matthew 4:19, what does it look like for someone to be a disciple (follower) of Jesus?
- Jesus said, “Come follow me,” and makes it clear that the “following” includes a training of some sort. He referred to it as, fishers of men.
- Would you consider yourself the type of follower of Jesus who is actively leading others to become followers of Jesus as well?
- According to Matthew 16:24, Jesus said, “If anyone would come after me, they must do several things. What are those things? Can you share openly what denying yourself and taking up your cross currently looks like?”

Meditation and Application:

Now that we have a better understanding of the teaching of these passages, let’s go one step further. Let’s focus on what these truths say for our hearts here and now, and how they can help us live moving forward.

- It is said, that one cannot produce what one isn’t. As a disciple (follower) of Jesus what’s keeping me from (producing) leading other people to follow (become faithful disciples) of Jesus?
- Often times our focus on denying ourselves and carrying our own cross (struggles, challenges, pain, etc...) will keep us from being the type of disciple that makes disciples. What’s one thing that might be causing us to only focus on ourselves? (Might be more than one... career, family, debt, dreams, goals) Note: Sometimes its not necessarily the negative and the bad things that distract us.
- Consider this: Living our whole lives never telling anyone about Jesus ‘caues we’ve been too busy focused on ourselves or simply trying to get ourselves together (fixed). Could it be that when Jesus said, “deny yourself, carry your cross and follow me,” was an invitation to not only find true significance in life but also our own healing and salvation? Read Matthew 16:24-25. Emphasis on verse 25.
- Can you take a moment and write down a name or two, maybe it’s a family, co-workers of people in your world of influence. Someone you know who needs the hope of Jesus in their lives. As you write their name down somewhere you won’t forget, can you share with your group who they are? Now lets take some time to pray for them.

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Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for reminding us that the invitation to follow you is an invitation to a life of great significance. I pray that I never lose sight of how important it is to live a life that's telling the purity of the gospel everywhere that I go. As the Scripture says in Matthew 5:16, "let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." Let our light shine in such a way that it attracts those far from You to Your eternal plan for their lives. Today I commit myself to sharing the good news of Jesus with _____ . I will begin praying for them consistently from this day forward and trust You will save them as you have saved me. Please give me the boldness and confidence to share what You have done for me and open their hearts to receive Your truth Jesus. Make me a disciple that makes disciples. I pray this in your great name Jesus. Amen!