

# Bible Study

## Small Group

### Week 4



SCRIPTURE – MARK 3:13-35

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

This week we are going to take a step back to chapter 3 of Mark, where we see the calling of the disciples. Understanding and embracing discipleship is critical in the life of any Christian. In this passage we see how twelve disciples are called by our Lord to follow him. This calling upon their lives was as significant as the day you and I found Christ. For many of us, finding forgiveness and salvation usually probes the next question, “What is next?”. To those who are still asking that question, this is it: **Following Jesus or Discipleship**. So, what does Discipleship mean? What did it mean when our Lord called his disciples and what does it mean to us today?

In the time of our Lord the Jewish education system was centered upon the studying of the scriptures. Josephus a historian during the time of our Lord, indicated that schooling for prospective students usually began around 4-5 years old. These students would first study the Torah (1<sup>st</sup> Five books of Bible), then those who graduated would then study the rest of the Old Testament. Only those who were the best and brightest students would then be tested at the age of 14-15 to go on to be disciples of Rabbis. It was only at about the age of 30 that a disciple of a Rabbi would become a Rabbi themselves. The vast majority of the students did not pass the exams and were destined to be carpenters, fishermen, tax collectors, farmers, etc. Here however, we find as our Lord calls His disciples from the likes of those who were deemed insufficient to study the Word of God.

The calling upon the disciples was a significant moment in their lives, because not only did it provide promise for that which they were already determined to be not good enough for, but it required each of them to let go all that they knew, for an unknown promise. *“he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, **“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*** (Matt 4:18-19, ESV) To the disciples, this meant their fortunes, their livelihoods, their safety, their families, and so much more. For example, as we covered in prior weeks, Simon Peter was married when he was called to follow Jesus (see Mark 1:30).

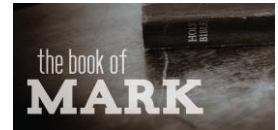
Knowing that discipleship looks very different for us today, what do the scriptures illustrate as attributes of discipleship? Here are some key attributes of Christian character that exemplify discipleship character:

1. **Seeking the Heart of God** (Studying the Scriptures, Prayer, Worship, etc.).
2. **Acting upon Faith in our lives** (Denying ourselves and logic, relying on Him for our Peace, our Healing, our Finances, our family, etc.).
3. **Sharing the Hope of Christ** (making disciples, baptism, sharing the love of Christ)

# Bible Study

## Small Group

### Week 4



Please pay particular attention to the first attribute, it is key to the second and third. Unfortunately, too many of us are so focused on what we are supposed to do for Jesus or our church, that we lose focus on our Savior. There is a significant difference between knowing what discipleship is and experiencing discipleship. If we want to be a true disciple of Christ, we must experience the Spirit, so that we can live the mission that has been set before us.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUP

1) What key take-away do you see in this passage?

---

---

2) Considering verse 14 of this passage, what are the three aspects of discipleship our Lord intended for each of us?

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

3) Considering how our Lord chose for his disciples, how does this change our perception of his calling upon our lives as his disciples?

---

---

4) Note that there were twelve disciples chosen in verses 16-19 of this passage. What is the significance of 12 disciples relative to the history of Israel? (Ezekiel 11:19-20)

5) Reread verses 24-25 of this passage.

- a) How does this impact our zeal in following the Lord's instruction upon our lives?
- b) What are the things in our lives that too can divide the kingdom of God in our hearts?
- c) What are the things in our small groups or church that can divide the kingdom of God in our midst?

---

---

6) What are the correlations between the verses below and the passage we have just read?

- a) Matthew 22:36-37: \_\_\_\_\_
- b) 2 Corinthians 3:18: \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Luke 9:23-25: \_\_\_\_\_
- d) John 13:34-35: \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Matthew 28:18-20: \_\_\_\_\_

#### QUESTIONS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

- 1. Seeing the illustration of discipleship provided in the passage (verses 31-35), how does this impact my understanding of discipleship?
- 2. Considering the aspects of discipleship provided in verse 14 of this passage and the verses illustrated in question 6 above, where are areas of discipleship that I can search after more?