

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

Disciples of Christ try to make disciples of Christ.

SCRIPTURE

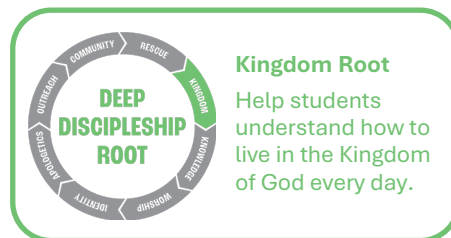
LUKE 9:10–17

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

The disciples were in need of rest. Jesus knew it. The beginning of this chapter shows us that Jesus paired the disciples up and sent them on a mission trip to the surrounding areas where they were to “proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal” (Luke 9:2). When they returned, most likely excited but tired, Jesus withdrew them to Bethsaida for some downtime. But the crowds heard Jesus was in town, so they followed him. And not a small number, five thousand men. Of course, Jesus welcomed the masses in and ministered to them. Rest would have to come later for Jesus and his apostles.

Check out the **Teacher Prep Video** for this lesson: <https://vimeo.com/933466427>

FACILITATOR NOTE: We’re giving you a lot of teaching material. Don’t feel like you should cover everything here. You know your group better than anyone. Choose the material that will best fit your students and skip over the rest.



BELONG

OPENING QUESTIONS

3–5 minutes

- How was the week? What’s the best thing that’s happened? Anything major going on?
- **Who is someone you have tried to copy in some way (how you dress, throw a football, tell jokes)?**



BELIEVE

EXPLORE GOD’S WORD

3–5 minutes

Today we are in the fourth lesson of the *Habits of Jesus* series. We will study what it looks like to make disciples of Jesus like he did. Jesus sent his disciples to preach and heal throughout the region. When they returned, the group went off on their own to share their experiences and recoup. A crowd heard about their location and interrupted their retreat. The crowd was searching for healing and teaching, and Jesus warmly welcomed them. When it came time to eat, Jesus miraculously fed them. He showed that he cared for all of a person’s needs, both physical and spiritual. Always the Great Teacher, Jesus used this experience to teach his disciples about living a life full of love, compassion, and service.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

7–10 minutes

- Why do you think Jesus and the disciples went off alone?
They went off to catch up on all that happened since they parted ways and rest a bit before continuing.
- Do you ever get weary from living for God or trying to serve him? Why or why not?
Help students give honest answers by sharing your own experiences with weariness. Following Jesus is hard work! Jesus and the disciples got tired from their work. It’s normal and expected to get worn out occasionally.
- How did the disciples and Jesus respond differently to the situation? What does Jesus’ reaction to the crowd teach us about him?
Jesus was probably looking forward to some rest and time with his closest companions. But he saw people who needed him, and he put their needs first. Jesus was a true servant.



Say something like: Even though Jesus and the disciples may have been looking forward to some peace and quiet, Jesus didn't turn the crowd away. He welcomed them, taught them, and provided healing. He showed his disciples that even though they had already put in a lot of work, more ministry opportunities were at hand.

- **Why is it important for disciples of Christ to address both spiritual and physical needs?**

Jesus loved people all the way. He didn't just tell them about the Kingdom of God. He showed it to them and invited them to participate. He didn't just heal their illnesses, he fed them, too! When we follow Jesus, we have the same responsibility to meet spiritual and physical needs.

- **What do you think the disciples learned from this experience?**

They were reminded who Jesus is and his amazing power! They also learned about his deep compassion for the needs of people and hopefully learned to practice that compassion toward others too.

Say something like: Through examples like this, the disciples learned to practice Jesus' deep compassion for the needs of people. Jesus was teaching his disciples how to follow God. We can also make disciples of Jesus and teach them how to follow God.

BECOME

CONNECTION

5-7 minutes

Who are mentors and teachers in your life? How have their lessons changed the way you live?

Answers will vary, but help students connect that just as their mentors and teachers formed them, Jesus formed his disciples.

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

2-3 minutes

Disciples of Christ try to make disciples of Christ.

APPLY IT

5-10 minutes

Jesus wanted to teach his followers how to live and serve so that they could show others when he was gone. How can you help teach someone else to follow Jesus the way you are?

Be specific:

- What are you going to do?
- When are you going to do it?
- Is there someone who can keep you accountable?



FACILITATOR NOTE: Allow students who are comfortable to share their plans for application. This may encourage or spark ideas for other students, plus add a level of accountability.

CLOSING

PRAYER

2–3 minutes

Take a moment to ask for prayer requests. Spend some time praying that the students take their role as disciples of Jesus seriously, generously serve those in need, and make more disciples who follow Christ. Write down any prayer requests mentioned and ask your students about them at your next meeting.

MEMORY VERSE

Send the memory verse graphic included in your download to your students later this week to keep the conversation going.

“What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”

Philippians 4:9 (ESV)

NOTES

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