

MAKE DISCIPLES: A CASE STUDY

The current pandemic has raised many questions in our minds, as churches have reduced their activities and we have learned new ways to communicate. One key question being asked, as people struggle to maintain their relationship with God, is, "Have we simply been building a community of churchgoers or are we truly helping people to become disciples of Jesus Christ?" Over the next few weeks we are going to try to help you answer that question for yourself.

Luke 5:1-11

¹ On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, ² and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." ⁶ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁷ They signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." ¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

READ Luke 5:1-5. Mark references to Jesus (he) with a and mark references to Peter with a . **Underline references to the boats.**

V1-3. Note all that Jesus does in these verses.

*How does it require from Peter to get involved?
Where is his boat?*

V4-5. What does Jesus ask Peter to do?

What does it mean for Peter to be engaged with Jesus at this point? Where is his boat going now?

READ Luke 5:6-11. Mark as previous.

What was the outcome of Peter's obedience?

V6-7

V8-9

V10. How does Jesus move Peter on further?

How does he respond? Note where his boat is in v11.

Reflect on the various positions of Peter's boat and what each said about his relationship with Jesus. Which best describes you just now?

Mark 3:13-15

¹³ And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. ¹⁴ And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and have authority to cast out demons. ¹⁶ He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter)

John 6:66-69

⁶⁶ After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve "Do you want to go away as well?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

Luke 22:31-34

³¹ "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. ³³ Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." ³⁴ Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."

READ Mark 3:13-15. Mark references to Jesus and Peter as before.

V13. What do we learn about those Jesus called?

V14-15. What three things were they called to do?

How should these three things play out in our relationship with Jesus as His disciple?

What does it mean for Peter to be engaged with Jesus at this point? Where is his boat going now?

Let us note some other points in Peter's journey. Jesus has been teaching that He is the Bread of Life and many found His words difficult to take.

READ John 8:66-69. Mark references to Jesus and Peter as before.

V66. What impact did Jesus teachings have?

V67-69. What does Peter's response to Jesus teach us about his resilience? What kept him following?

What can we learn from his example?

It is the time of Jesus death, and He wants to warn Peter of the danger ahead.

READ Luke 22:31-34. Mark references to Jesus and Peter as before.

V31-32. Who is opposing Peter? What is Jesus already doing for him even before the trial comes?

V33-34. How committed is Peter to Jesus? Where is his confidence at this point?

Reflect on lessons from your own times of testing.

Peter sadly denied Jesus that night.

Luke 22:60-62

⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.

John 21:15-17

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

READ Luke 22:60-62. Mark references to Jesus and Peter as before.

V61. How do you think Jesus looked at Peter based on v31-32 before?

V62. What lessons is Peter learning through this?

What can we learn from his example?

After Jesus' resurrection, He breakfasts with Peter.

Extra: Read John 21:1-14 and compare with Luke 5:1-11.

READ John 21:15-17. Mark as before.

What is the core question Jesus ask Peter?

How does Peter respond, especially in v17?

What does this teach about failure not being final?

What do you think is at the heart of discipleship?

Reflect on what we have considered from these snapshots of Peter's life. What have you learned about being a disciple of Jesus?

How can you apply this to your daily life?

About this study...

This resource has been designed to allow you to jump into God's Word and study it closely. It requires no preparation, and provides you with a structure to study a passage, with questions to help you think and reflect on it.

This study gives you a small insight into the world of inductive Bible study through three key parts:

Observe - What does the text say?

Understand - What does the text mean?

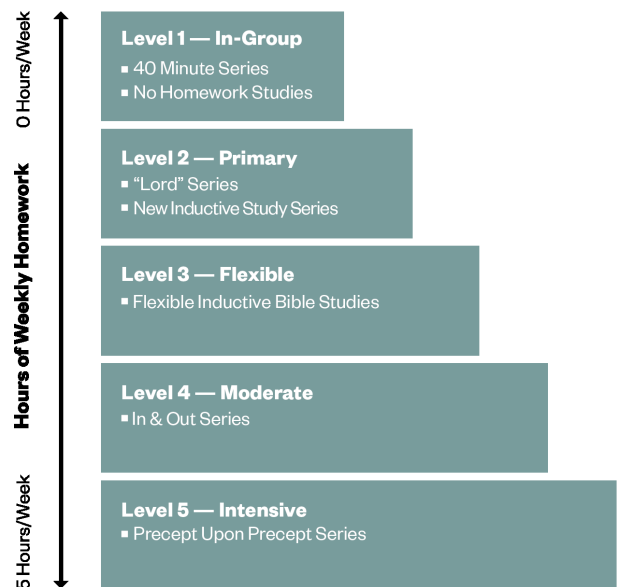
Apply - What does this mean for me?

By using this approach, we can study the Bible in a way that allows us to know God deeply, and to live differently.

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