

Date

Notes:

PREPARATION:

This topic will help the members of your group, and visitors, to understand the importance of the Great Commission of Jesus. We pray it will wake a desire in them to lead others to be disciples of Jesus Christ!

PURPOSES:

How can we help the members of the group to become disciples of Jesus Christ? That's the question that we will be trying to answer. It's necessary to understand that many people do not wholly realize the importance of "discipleship". What is it? It's when one person brings up another through contact, Bible discussion, and accountability. However, in Christianity you don't need to sit down at a desk. You don't need textbooks, learning formulas, data or last names by heart. In Christianity you just need to *live!* And this life will certainly influence others! Jesus wasn't just sitting with His disciples reading the Torah for hours! *He lived!* His disciples were trying to live as He did! So, encourage the members of your group, *their friends and acquaintances, that anyone* can become a disciple of Jesus Christ if they wish! To do this, you just need to live, spend time together, share joy and sorrow, pray for and help each other!

OPENING PRAYER/WORSHIP (15 minutes)

"Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Great Commission! We would sincerely want to fulfill it! Help us in it! I, as the leader, would like to see my brothers and sisters become mature Christians and to help others become disciples of Jesus Christ! Bless all of us, help all of us! _____ (Special prayer requests and/or thanksgivings may be added here.) In Jesus' name. Amen."

ANNOUNCEMENTS/SPECIAL OFFERINGS (5 minutes)

GETTING STARTED (30 minutes)

Discuss the following questions. Try to connect your answers with what you remember from the previous lesson.

- **What is the difference between the words "disciple" and "discipleship"?**

Discipleship is the best method of submitting this world to God. The influence that was exerted by the twelve disciples, and Paul, shows us the value of discipleship. A small group of disciples, correspondingly taught, will do much more for God than a great number of converted Christians who don't have the sufficient spiritual depth. Discipleship is, in fact, a strategy for making disciples of Jesus Christ. Imagine one disciple bringing one person to Christ and devoting one year for his training. The next year those two disciples each bring another person to Christ. Then the next year these four disciples do the same thing, they would double the number of disciples each year. In 32 years, the entire population of the earth would be saved. That's what mathematics tells us. The final result is the spiritual maturity of Christians. Spiritual maturity doesn't automatically come with age, knowledge or experience. It is a result of consistent spiritual growth based on obedience to Jesus and His Word. Thus, "discipleship" is a process of training of a "disciple".

- **"Teach all the nations"- who must do it, you or somebody else?**
- **Why are you afraid to become a "teacher"?**

Discipleship is a very serious business. It requires a lot, that's what Jesus Himself told us. He didn't promise His followers a way covered with roses. He clearly showed what it would cost to become His disciple. You need to take your cross and follow Him! (Luke 14:7)

We need to give our entire life, and everything we have, to God. Then He can deal with it according to His will. Many Christians choose to only partially commit themselves to the teaching and examples of Christ. They often compromise His word to include their own personal values. As a result, many Christians do not become the witnesses God wants them to be. This is why some churches are spiritually weak, ineffective and passive. God's children are called to demonstrate the life transforming presence of Jesus in the world. Even in the church, many Christians often don't choose the best examples to follow. God wants us to imitate His best vessels, trying to resemble Christ Himself (1st Corinthians 11:1).

- **Do you think you can say you have “reached the top”?**
- **In the context of this lesson can you say that we have a right to “be content with little”?**
- **What does it mean: “take your cross”, when we speak about following Jesus?**

God is calling His children to true discipleship, to faithfulness and obedience to the Lord. They must be ready, out of their love for Jesus, to live according to His standards. No matter what it costs them. Discipleship without payment cannot be true discipleship. Christians are called to forget about themselves. They are to daily carry their cross in aspiration to follow Jesus Christ. Their cross is not a burden laid on them. It is something they are ready to endure for the sake of the Gospel. God has become the head in their lives, driving back their pride and all the rest. Giving God the supremacy in life leads to better results, both for the disciples and those they love. That's why Jesus set such a high price for the discipleship. He called everyone to consider how much it'll cost them. (Luke 9:57-62; John 6:60-66; Mark 10:17-31) The price demanded by Jesus is high. Therefore, it is not surprising that only His most faithful disciples remained with Him. However, these few were enough to turn this world around.

TODAY'S LESSON CONCLUSION: (10 minutes)

Try to help people realize, in becoming a disciple of Christ, we need to stick to the words He told us. The Great Commission given to us - to go and teach all the nations – wasn't said in a way of a petition. It was a command!!! Jesus didn't say, “Well, guys, I'm going to my Father. If you really want to and time permits, please go and teach all the nations”. No! He commanded all of us to broaden the Heavenly Kingdom. That's why we shouldn't only be Christ's disciples. We should bring others to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Here we'll list 5 important terms on Biblical discipleship. They will help you teach others about discipleship.

1. ***Faithfulness.*** Only faithful people suit for discipleship.
2. ***Love for Jesus and giving Him the supremacy.*** This means to live according to His will and in obedience.
3. ***Readiness to give away yourself, to sacrifice.*** Your growing into spiritual maturity requires sacrifices in time, strength, and sometimes even in relationships. God has a personal teaching program for everyone. He wants us to trust our life with this program. Then we can be transformed into the likeness and image of His son Jesus. (Philippians 2:13; 2nd Corinthians 9:8; 1st Thessalonians 5:23-24)
4. ***Spiritual thirst.*** This means a real desire to grow spiritually and to be used by God.
5. ***Desire to learn.*** This means we are ready to submit to the authority of God's Word and of spiritual mentors set by God.

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS/ANSWERS (5 minutes)

GROUP PRAYER (15 minutes)

If during the discussion any of the group members felt the desire not only to follow Jesus personally, but also to teach others His word, pray for these people so that God would give them wisdom and ability. However, the main thing is that He would give them people whom they could teach. Pray that you could teach in the power of the Word with miracles and signs.