

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

Lesson Plan: The Cost of Discipleship (pt. 1)

Learning Goals: Students will evaluate Jesus' command to "take up your cross and follow" for those who want to be his followers/disciples.

Question: What does it cost us to follow Jesus? What do you have to give up? What do you gain?

Prayer

Discuss Question on Board

Read Luke 9:21-27

What do you think Jesus meant by "take up your cross and follow me?"

Show video of guy who took this literally and carried a cross around the world.

Demonstrate with the large wooden cross.

Notes:

"If/Then" statement (introduction to logic)

- Second part assumes the first part.
- Examples: If you want good grades, then study hard and do your work
 If you want to be a good athlete, train hard.
 If you want to be healthy, don't eat junk food.
 If you want to have friends, be a friend.

If you want to be a disciple (follower of Jesus), this is what it looks like:

The student will experience the same fate as the teacher.

"deny yourself"

- This is not so much a matter of denying the self various things, but of putting the cause of Christ ahead of all the desires of the self.
- To deny oneself was to set aside the relationships that gave some their identity and exchange them for a new identity based on the community of Jesus-followers.
- Foreshadowing of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane ("Not my will but yours be done")

"take up his cross"

- We are to die to the world that opposes God so that we can be free to live according to the values of the kingdom.
- This is more than just a hardship to be endured (such as a chronic illness). It is the decision to daily make the decision to live a life of self-giving love, even if it costs us our life.
- We are to live a life of humility and vulnerability rather than a crusading attitude in relating with others.

"daily"

- responding in faith to Jesus does not
- discipleship is not a one time decision, it is a way of life
- Eugene Peterson - Discipleship = "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction"

- It is about bearing witness to our faith on good days as well as bad days

“follow me”

- Followers of Jesus *follow* Jesus.
- Discipleship is not a matter of saying the right words, but living an ongoing way of life.

Lesson Summary/Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Disciple
- What did Jesus mean when he said that, to be a disciple, you must “deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow me” ?