

Lesson 8: The Fight

Lesson Focus

“The Trials of Discipleship”

Base Scripture

Mark 10:29, 30 Ephesians 5:1-2

Aim

This week’s lesson will focus on the major challenges that hit discipleship or that try to stop the disciple from following Jesus Christ

Memory Verses:	Ephesians 5:1-2 1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.
	Luke 14:26-27 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.
Goals: Student will learn:	Over the next twelve weeks, discover the tools necessary to effectively use God’s Word to equip us in becoming a disciple maker. Introduction to the Disciple Making Commission and begin the Journey.

DAILY ACTIVITIES: For the Week

Introduction

There is one question as Christians that constantly weighs on our minds. How do people actually grow in their faith? How do we make disciples? If you are like most of us, I'm sure you know all the canned answers. We've heard them all before. You've probably even suggested them at some point! Like, you got to attend church, read the bible and pray more right? These are all great answers but in reality, our growth as followers of Jesus is rarely as simple and uncomplicated as the Sunday School answer. If you try thinking a little deeper or reflecting on your own growth. There have been seasons where it feels like you've been growing fast and it's exciting and dynamic, however there have also been seasons where you've stopped and questioned whether you're actually any different than you were a year ago. The complexities of measuring our own growth aside, I'm sure you'll agree this pattern exists and is common. So, in this lesson 8, let's look at the challenges of discipleship and how to get through the temptations, persecutions, false teachings, self-imposed challenges, moral weaknesses and self-indulgences to try overcoming the many challenges that plague or stunt our growth & faith in the word of God. Also, we should want to understand how we can best disciple people in our 21st century western context. There are unique challenges that affect the times in which we live in, even if we believe the core of being a follower of Jesus is the same as it was 2000 years ago.

Wednesday **Temptation**

Jesus Christ Himself had His fair share of temptations from the devil. Jesus once said to His disciples, "A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also." (*John 15:20*). Jesus meant to say that what he was experiencing and what his disciples were yet to experience would not be any different; that is, His disciples would experience the bliss and the pain that He was experiencing. Therefore, if Jesus experienced temptations, then His disciples would experience the same.

But the question is what or who brings temptation? –

- a. How were the disciples of Jesus tempted?
- b. Explain how the devil tempts us.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13, What does the scripture teach us about being tempted?

Ask yourself about what tempts you, write down some of your temptations and how you escape from them.

Thursday **Persecution**

1. Persecution is an integration of many undesirable experiences such as suffering hatred, death, arbitrary arrest, torture, incarceration, etc.on account of Jesus Christ. Jesus was honest enough to tell His disciples beforehand that such a thing would come their way. We should realize that Jesus Christ was persecuted for saying he wasthe Christ. Persecution comes in many different flavors like;

Friday

False Teaching

1. One of the things that all Christians must look for constantly in their walk with the lord is false teachers of the gospel.
 - What does a false teacher look like?
 - How do keep from being a false teacher?
2. Even persecution with all of its brutalities is inferior to false teachings in terms of efficiency in destruction.
 - How has false teachers destroyed the integrity of the Gospel?
 - Why is false teaching so brutal on Christian growth?
3. Read 1John 4:1 and 2 Peter 2:1-3 Over the centuries, *false teaching* has permeated, confused, misled, and ravaged the church sore, and disciples have struggled in its perilsup to this day.
 - Explain how one can test the Spirit to see if they are from God.
 - Describe how false teaching enter into the lord's church today.

Saturday **"Self-inflicted challenges of discipleship"**

1. We are our own worst enemy and can self-sabotage, self-inflict, and ultimately self-destruct in an effort of being a disciple of Christ. Write in your journal 3 ways you have sabotaged, inflicted or destroyed your ability to being a disciple of Christ.
 - a.) _____
 - b.) _____
 - c.) _____
2. So far as serving God is concern, every disciple is an enemy to himself or herself in that some of the challenges we face causes us to self-destruct because of our past.
 - How has your past caused you to self-destruct as a disciple?
 - Explain how you are your own worst enemy.
3. Our human nature comes with weaknesses and indulgences which pose challenges to our following Jesus Christ. If not properly checked, these factors are able to remove us from the path of following Jesus as disciples.
 - Name the 3 human natures in 1 John 2:15-16 that poses a challenge to our ability to follow Christ.

Sunday [Moral weaknesses of disciples](#)

There were twelve disciples of Jesus, one of them, Judas Iscariot, could not continue being a disciple of Jesus for life, for he fell away along the line and became an apostate. Why?

1. Read ([Luke22:3-5](#)).
 - What moral weakness Judas had that caused him to betray the lord and what moral weaknesses can leads us away from Jesus?
2. All disciples of Jesus identify with the fallen disciple, Judas Iscariot, in that we all have weaknesses. Having weaknesses is not a big deal; what really matters is checking our weaknesses. We should ever be mindful that weaknesses are a major challenge to disciples for they can ruin our relationship with God and we will no longer be reckoned as disciples. Read 2 Tim 1:7
 - How does the bible help us depict our victory over our moral weaknesses?

Monday [Self-Gratification](#)

The Lord abhors sin; because it separates us from him, Most sins are pleasurable which is why it is difficult to stop committing them.

1. What are some of the sins disciple find most enticing?
2. Read 1 John 2:16
 - What are some ways disciple can best avoid falling into these 3 categories?
3. We must be reminded that self-gratification is a sin that ruins our relationship with God
 - Why is it so important that we master self-gratification and not allow it to master us?

Tuesday [Overcoming Challenges](#)

This week we have been discussing the Trials or challenges of discipleship, via temptation, persecution, false teaching, Self-inflictions, Self-gratification and Overcoming them all.

- What have you learned about yourself that lets you know you are better as a result of what was taught?
- what challenges do you still have that need to be remedied?