

Lesson 1

Follow Me

Group Icebreaker: What picture comes to mind when you hear the words “Follow Me?”

Introduction:

Becoming a disciple of Jesus is essential the same process that a child goes through in learning to follow his parents. The first three words that a child usually learns are: mommy, daddy and no. The words mommy and daddy identify the people to whom the child has bonded. The use of the word “no” by the parents establishes their authority and issues a command to the child that requires his obedience. It is by the use of this word that a child’s training commences. The first lesson he must learn is obedience.

After a person is “born again” the first two words he learns are usually, Church and God. They assist him in identifying those with whom he has bonded. The next words he should be taught are “Follow Me”. Jesus issues this command to His disciples at the start of their training. Those words establish His authority and issue a command that requires their obedience. And like a child it is also provides the first opportunity for a disciple to use the word “no”!

Reading The Scripture:

John 1:35-51, Luke 5:1-11, 27-28, Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9, Mark 1:16-20, 2:14

The First Disciples

John 1:35-51

(Gospels forged together into one seamless story, in collaboration with New American Standard Bible, authored by Michael Gibson, Founder of Spirit & Truth, dba Key 2 Changes: “Follow Me: A Message from God”, a journey with Jesus)

Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked upon Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. And Jesus turned, and beheld them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" And they said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." They came therefore and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He found first his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him, and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter). The next day He purposed to go forth into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "**Follow Me.**" Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you shall see the heavens opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

“Follow Me”

Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 1:16-20 and Luke 5:1-11

(Gospels forged together into one seamless story, in collaboration with New American Standard Bible,
authored by Michael Gibson, Founder of Spirit & Truth, dba Key 2 Changes: "Follow Me: A Message from God", a journey with Jesus)

And walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Now it came about that while the multitude were pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; and He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and began teaching the multitudes from the boat. And when He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but at Your bidding I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish; and their nets began to break; and they signaled to their partners in the other boat, for them to come and help them. And they came, and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, He said to them, "**Follow Me,**" and I will make you fishers of men." And going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. And immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.

The Command:

"Follow Me."

The Lesson:

The lesson of obedience is a difficult one to learn. It requires that a person recognize authority over him and then submit his will to that authority. This isn't always easy, especially when the authority is telling you to do something you don't want to do. Jesus wants your obedience. Without it, you cannot be His disciple.

When Jesus called the original disciples to follow Him, they could see, touch, taste, smell and hear the Messiah. He was physically present among them and they followed His physical presence everywhere. But that wasn't the lesson He was teaching them.

Jesus taught His disciples to follow by issuing voice commands that they were expected to obey. He also led them by example, demonstrating His obedience to His Father's commands that were written in the Old Testament portion of the Bible. He practiced what He preached.

Parents teach their children to follow voice commands as well. Children perceive the authority in their parent's voice and follow the example set by their parents. However, when the parents don't practice what they preach, the child tends to emulate what the parents' do, not what they say.

The first disciples learned to obey Jesus. When He had finished teaching them, Jesus told them to go and make more disciples by teaching them what He had commanded them to do. They were to lead by example, by actually doing what He had told them to do. The results were astounding! The book of Acts clearly shows that miracles followed the obedience of these disciples and the growth of the Church exploded.

Jesus still holds these expectations for the Church today and His method has not changed. He still calls people to follow Him and miracles still follow obedience to the Word of God. In fact, the miracle of rebirth occurs in a person's life the same way. They hear the Word of God preached concerning Jesus, believe it, confess Him as Lord and are baptized. The way people follow Jesus is to hear and do His word. The Apostle Paul said, "*Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ*".¹ Jesus said, "*Blessed are those who hear the Word of God, and observe it*".² And God, Himself, spoke from heaven to the disciples declaring, "*This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, listen to Him*".³

Group Discussion Worksheet:

- A. There are three major components of a command:
1. Giving the command.
 2. Hearing the command.
 3. Obeying the command.
- B. Four elements are required in hearing a command, before it can be obeyed.
1. You must physically hear it.
 2. You must know what it means.
 3. You must know that it is directed toward you.
 4. You must know that it is from your leader.
- C. Three elements are required in actually obeying a command.
1. You must be willing to obey.
 2. You must stop what you are presently doing.
 3. You must actually do it.
- D. From the story of Jesus and Peter found in Luke 5:1-11; identify the various elements of hearing and obeying a command.
1. We know Peter heard the command because he responded to it.
 2. Peter knew what the command meant because he was a fisherman.
 3. Peter knew it was directed at him because it was his boat.
 4. Peter knew it was from someone who had authority because he called Jesus, Master.
 5. Though somewhat disgruntled at the command he willingly submitted.
 6. Peter stopped what he was doing, talking.
 7. He set out to deep water.
- E. When did the miracle occur? The miracle occurred after Peter obeyed.
- F. Reasons why Christians stumble in their walk of following Jesus Christ.
1. Ignorance -- Not knowing what the Scriptures say.
 2. Apathy -- Not applying what the Scriptures say.
 3. Confusion -- More concerned about current events in their lives.
 4. False information -- Listening to others instead of their Lord.

¹ Romans 10:17

² Luke 11:28

³ Matthew 17:5

The Point Of The Lesson:

To hear and obey what Jesus, The Word of God says.

Application:

1. Memorize John 10:27 -- “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”
2. Ask the Lord to give you a personal command to be obeyed, write down the results and share it with the group.