

Defining Christianity

What is a disciple?

Mark 3:7-21, Matthew 28:16-20, John 15:8, 1 John 4:10

- ❶ **Presence:** To be **with Jesus**.
John 17:3, Proverbs 8:17, Philippians 3:10, Hebrews 11:6, Acts 4:13, 17:26-27

- ❷ **Preach:** Pass on what you've learned **from Jesus**.
Acts 6:8, Matthew 10:26-33, 2 Timothy 4:1-5

- ❸ **Power:** The life of Jesus that **frees us**, and **frees others**.
Acts 1:8, Romans 5:8-10, Romans 7 & 8

Who can be a disciple?

1 Corinthians 1:26-31, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Matthew 16:24, 1 John 4:10, 2 Peter 3:9

Those that are called **by Jesus**,
and those who come **to Jesus**.

A disciple was not picked because of **who they were**,
but because of who God could **make them be**.

What to expect?

Matthew 5:14-16, Philippians 2:14-16, 1 Peter 3:13-16, John 15:18-25
People are never our enemy: John 10:10, 1 Peter 5:8-11

Expect **criticism**, but avoid the **conflict**.

Expect to live a life that doesn't fuel **the opposition**.

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of March 10, 2019

MY STORY

This week is the final meeting of our Winter Quarter. We'll take a two-week break, then the Spring Quarter begins the week of March 31 and runs through June 1. To wrap up the Quarter, we'll spend some time this week looking back at our study in Mark and taking Communion.

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

How would the average person define a disciple? Do you think that definition is similar or different from how Chris explained it this weekend?

Which of the three aspects in Chris' definition of a disciple catch your attention the most and why?

HOW HAS GOD GOTTEN YOUR ATTENTION SO FAR?

1

We began the Life Group Quarter studying the book of Mark. As we close the Winter Quarter, we want to take a look at how God has gotten our attention, grown us, challenged us or encouraged us these past nine weeks. Take a moment to think back on what you've learned, marked in your Bible or written in your notes about the themes we've covered (some are below). Jot down any highlights that stood out to you and give a brief explanation as to why you picked them.

Some quotes and verse-highlights so far in Mark:

"Sometimes the center of God's will is in the middle of the storm."

"A blessed life is not necessarily an easy life."

"Our life will point to the Good News, not our good self."

"Religion can actually keep us from Jesus."

"Prayer is to a relationship with God as blood is to the body."

"Prayerlessness may be our greatest sin, because of what it says about who we really think is in charge."

Jesus went off to a solitary place, where he prayed ...

they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

"When we approach Jesus we enter into his willingness not his reluctance."

"Christianity is the only club where you don't have to qualify to get in."

"Never turn your tools into rules."

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

2

As a follower of Jesus, it's great news that the power of Jesus frees us and that his Spirit is at work in us. How do these verses remind us about how God is at work in our lives?
(NIV- New International Version)

Romans 8:26-27 - ²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Hebrews 4:12 - ¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

John 10:27-28 - ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Acts 1:8 - ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Which of these verses are most helpful to you in living out the three aspects of being a disciple?

REMEMBERING

Our Mark series so far is giving us an authentic look at how Jesus will do all he can to reach us and walk with us, giving us meaning and purpose no matter what life throws our way. His love for us is so great that he gave his life so that we might have life. Communion is a reminder of all that Jesus accomplished through his death on the cross and his resurrection. It is through this sacrifice that Jesus' grace and mercy are made available to us.

This week your Life Group will conclude by doing as the disciples did, taking Communion together. To prepare for Communion, read the following verses and reflect on Jesus' commitment and work in your life as you follow him.

1 Peter 2:22-25 - ²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." ²⁵ For "you were like sheep going astray," ²⁶ but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Romans 5:7-11 - ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - ²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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NORTH COAST RANCHO BERNARDO HOUSEWARMING - North Coast Rancho Bernardo will launch in late March at Rancho Bernardo High School and we still need your help!

PRAY - Please pray with us that the details are worked out, that the necessary funds are raised, for those who will attend and for the staff as they prepare.

DONATE - It's a North Coast tradition to launch each campus with a "housewarming." Visit: northcoastchurch.com/housewarming for more information. Thank you, North Coast! Let's do this!