

# *Being family in Christ's Church*

## **Week 3: Discipleship**

### **WELCOME**

*Spend time relaxing and sharing together.*

Have two sheets of paper, one with 'Jesus' written on it and another with 'disciple' written on it. On the Jesus sheet write the question "Who do you say I am?" On the disciple sheet write the question "What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?"

Respond to these questions and write the responses on the appropriate piece of paper (perhaps have two scribes).

### **WORSHIP**

Just a suggestion:

Use the responses on the Jesus sheet to lift up thanks and praise. Perhaps listen to, or sing, an appropriate song.

### **WORD**

Read Romans 12:1-2

1. What verse 2 mean?

The Philosopher Blaise Pascal said, "Most of man's problems come from the inability to sit still". We need to spend time with God. Perhaps it is not so much about whether we are still or active but more about who we spend time with. We need to hang out with God. Jesus did have quiet times with his disciples, but they also spent a lot time on the move as active apprentices. The more time you spend with someone the more you know about them and often the more you become in tune with them.

Read Luke 9:21-27

## **Growth Group Notes**

### **Autumn 2019**



Have you noticed how often the word 'self' appears in contemporary culture. Indulge yourself, express yourself, be yourself, find yourself. What we don't hear in contemporary culture is: deny yourself.

2. What did Jesus mean when he said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves..." (Luke 9.23a)
3. Jesus continues "... and take up their cross daily and follow me." What did Jesus mean?

Some other models of discipleship to explore:

Read Philippians 2:1-11

4. What does the passage say about discipleship?

Read John 17:6-18

5. What does the passage say about discipleship?

### **Summary**

We can pray to God, we can cry out to the Lord in a time of need – but it doesn't necessarily mean that we are following Jesus.

We can recognise God exists, but it does not necessarily mean that we are disciples of the Lord. Even evil spirits recognise who Jesus is – but they don't follow him. The demon called Legion shouted out to Jesus, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?" (Mark 5.7)

We can recognise that God is worthy of praise. We can thank him for his provision or for what he has done for us, but it doesn't necessarily make us a follower of the Lord.

We need to take ourselves out of the centre and put Jesus in the centre. We need to practice a way of being that revolves around God.

Being a disciple of Jesus literally means being "a learner of Jesus" (Greek *mathētēs*) - learning stuff about Jesus in such a way that we become more like Jesus. This isn't classroom learning. This is learning by being with

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Jesus, having adventures with Jesus and growing your relationship with Jesus. This is learning by making Jesus the centre of your life.

## ***WHAT NEXT?***

Is there anything to follow-up from last time you met?

How can we put being “a learner of Jesus” in to practice this week?

Pray for each other.