

Dare To Be Selected – Lk 5:1-11

Ice Breaker: Discuss the importance of “sharpening your saw” from this parable

A man was struggling in the woods to saw down a tree. An old farmer came by, watched for a while, then quietly said, “What are you doing?”

“Can’t you see?” the man impatiently replied, “I’m sawing down this tree.”

“You look exhausted,” said the farmer. “How long have you been at it?”

“Over five hours, and I’m beat,” replied the man. “This is hard work.”

“That saw looks pretty dull,” said the farmer. “Why don’t you take a break for a few minutes and sharpen it? I’m sure it would go a lot faster.”

“I don’t have time to sharpen the saw,” the man says emphatically. *“I’m too busy sawing!”*

Read Luke 5:1-11

Textual Questions:

v. 1-3

- The Fishermen had finished an “all nighter” (see verse 5) of working hard; what are they doing (in verse 2) as Jesus first observes them? Instead of washing their nets at the end of the day, what might they be tempted to do instead? How could you justify putting off net maintenance and repair? Remember, they didn’t catch anything, so would the strain on the nets be minor or major for that day of fishing? Why are “net menders” good candidates to be disciples of Jesus?
- How would you prove to be a more effective Christian if you were a “net mender” or “saw sharpener”?
- What can you do starting today or tomorrow to develop this virtue for Jesus?

v. 4-5

- After preaching to the eager crowds, why does Jesus avoid the crowd by heading out to deep water? What is his main priority? Why does he want to focus on the few? How will that help him reach many?
- As daybreaks, Jesus asks Simon Peter to let down his nets - *which he has just cleaned!* - for a catch. Why is this a difficult command for Simon to obey?
- How does his counter-common-sense obedience make him a good candidate to be a disciple of Jesus?
- What is a command of Jesus that goes against your common sense?
- If you were willing to obey Jesus even when it goes against your common sense, how would that virtue make you a more effective Christian?

v. 6-10a

- Godly obedience always makes more sense AFTER we’ve obeyed - can you tell me about a time that you didn’t understand why obeying made sense until after you saw the results of that obedience? Can you think of anyone else in the bible who obeyed in spite of his or her common sense?
- Why does Simon Peter fall to his knees AFTER seeing the results of obedience? His humility makes him a prime candidate for discipleship. Why does humility make us more useful to Jesus?
- How would greater humility make you more useful to Jesus? How can you begin to practice that type of humility?

v. 10b-11

- Why does Simon Peter have a fear of Jesus? How is fear helpful in our relationship with God?
- What is the new purpose for Simon’s life? Does that purpose apply to other disciples of Jesus - besides Simon; why or why not (notice the response of “they” in v. 11)? If it doesn’t, then how will Jesus’ plan to reach the world be accomplished?
- How does “leaving everything” better equip Peter, James, and John to follow Jesus? How can you better apply the “leave everything” principle to re-arrange your life for Jesus?
- How would you prove to be a better or more effective disciple of Jesus if you re-arranged your life?
- What can you do starting today or tomorrow to develop this virtue for Jesus?

Closing Charge: Sharpen the saw! Obey even when it makes no sense! Present yourself in humble submission to Jesus! Re-arrange your life for Jesus! Join us this month as we all pursue real discipleship.

The Jesus Dare! - Dare to Hold On!

Ice Breaker:

Goal: Show the importance of reading and following the right "instructions."

Props: Three grocery bags, three forks, three blank pieces of paper, three pens, one prize (a candy bar, \$5, etc.). Print one copy of the below exercise entitled "The Direction Race". Cut it in half.

Directions: Place the fork, pen and blank piece of paper in the bag. Fold the direction sheet so people can't read them. Choose three contestants. Give each a bag and give two of them a folded copy of the directions.

Explain the game. Each of you has a task to accomplish that is explained on the instruction sheet. The first one done will win a prize.

Two of the three contestants have directions on how to accomplish the task. Of the two with the instructions, one of them will only be able to read the directions for one second. The other will have the directions to read the whole time. Flip a coin to choose who will be able to read the directions for only one second. Give that contestant one second to look at the instructions (Make it quick). Then say go!

Give the prize to the one who finishes first.

The title of Bible Talk tonight is Dare to Hold on! Hold onto what? Lets look into the Bible to find out.

John 8:27-36

Q: What stands out about Jesus' audience?

A: There were Jews who had admitted to believing that Jesus was the Messiah

Q: Why is this significant?

A: John 5:18, 7:32, 45-52 = They were facing great opposition and persecution!

Q: What would we imagine that Jesus would say to these people who are believing in him even through such opposition?

A: Great job! You're awesome! You're saved!

Look at what he says – v. 31-32

Q: What does it mean to "*hold to my teachings*"?

A: Learn them. Hold onto them. Obey them.

Q: What does it mean to be a disciple?

A: "A student or follower of" Connect to the word Christian in Acts 11:25

- Point out the "if...then" statement Jesus is making
 - **If** you hold to my teachings
 - **Then** you are really my disciple, know truth, be set free
 - **Opposite is true also**
 - **If** you are **not** holding to my teachings
 - **Then** you are **not** really my disciples, **don't** know truth, **aren't** set free

Q: According to this passage, does Jesus say that just believing in him is enough?

A: No! Biblical faith is belief and actions! (Refer to James 2:24, 26)

Q: How can we know if we are holding to Jesus' teachings?

A: Read Bible, study with people, attend a church that challenges people's lives

- If we are not studying the Bible we have no real clue we are obeying his teachings.

Q: How does this relate to our game earlier?

A: We can be like those three contestants. Not reading, reading quickly and haphazardly or reading carefully the whole time through.

Q: What is the reward Jesus offers for holding to his teachings?

A: Really be a disciple/Christian, know the truth, truth sets you free!

Q: Free from what?

A: Verse 34 shows it is slavery to sin!

Q: How is sin enslaving?

A: Always easier the second time, lust for more, habit forming

Q: Jesus says that holding to His teachings leads to knowing the truth, how does that work?

A: Obedience to God's word is often illogical, especially when sin has tainted our thinking. Once we decide to obey Jesus instead of our own sinful desires, we begin to understand why Jesus commands us to do it. (Give examples of this: humility, anger, patience, forgiveness, Bible study, evangelism, etc.)

Q: Are there areas in your life where you are enslaved by sin?

A: (Share personally ways that this principle has affected you)

Q: Is Jesus okay with us remaining enslaved to sin?

A: No! It is a part of our being Christians that we overcome sin by obeying his teachings.

Closing:

Q: What area of your life do you need to obey Jesus and be set free?

Q: What decision can you make tonight to follow through?

- Jesus desires to reward our lives, but we must follow the directions!
- Jesus gives us an amazing promise in verse 36

"So if the son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

The Direction Race

1. Remove items from bag
2. Place the fork on the blank paper
3. Use the pen to trace an outline of the fork on the paper
4. Write a food you like to eat below the outline of the fork (Be quick!)
5. Fold the paper in half
6. Place it in the bag
7. Stand up and shout "Garson!"

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Disciple See, Disciple Do

Preparation:

- Get a blindfold (a tie will work)
- Place some objects/furniture around the room that will serve as obstacles

Activity:

Watch & Learn

The leader, without having the blindfold on, will slowly walk around the objects/furniture in the room but will verbalize his/her steps so that those watching will hear the paces and have a chance to hopefully memorize them.

Go & Try

Having done this, one by one, everyone else will try to repeat what they just saw but will try to do it by wearing a blindfold. The leader will be able to help by given verbal instructions.

Tonight We Are Going To Read John 13: 1-16

Watch & Learn

(Starter ?'s ... feel free to add more)

What is Jesus doing here with the disciples?

How do you think they felt having their feet washed by Jesus?

How much effort did Jesus put into washing their feet?

This is where they were to "Watch & Learn"

In verse :15 Jesus says "*I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*"

Go & Try

What are some ways you can imitate Jesus by serving one another in the home this week?

How will others feel if they saw you serving?

If Jesus put a lot of effort in serving others, how much should you put in?

Conclusion

Part of disciple is first watching Jesus and then imitating him.

This week as we read our Bibles lets remember to first Watch & Learn but then Go & Try

Dare To Be Accountable

Scripture: Luke 10:1-21

Note to Bible talk leaders:

Think of an activity for your group to demonstrate “following instructions exactly”. The point of illustration is to show that given specific instruction on how to do something, some will follow it exactly and some will not. Let the participants know that they will be evaluated on how well they follow instructions. To make the point, pre-arrange someone in your group to not follow the instructions but have them do it little differently for reasons of “my way is better”.

Wait to discuss the activity till the end of the BT.

Have a volunteer read **Luke 10:1-20**

Explain to the group that Jesus had previously sent out the “twelve” (Chap 9) on a mission to preach the Kingdom of God and heal the sick. They had great success and REPORTED back to Jesus what they had done (Lk 9:10). This time Jesus appointed 72 followers to go and heal the sick and preach that the Kingdom is near.

Q1: What do you notice about the instructions Jesus gave the 72?

Ans: They are not to go from house to house but rather stay in one house if they are welcomed there. His instructions were very specific.

Q2: When are you most likely to follow instructions exactly?

Ans: When it is my first time doing something (e.g. I have no idea how to do it). When there is serious consequence if I don't follow the instructions (e.g. your wife asks you to take out the trash before you go off to work Wednesday morning☺)

Let's get a little personal here and talk about that aspect of following instructions that most people prefer not to dwell on – it's called “Accountability”

Q3: What happen starting in verse 17 when the 72 returned to Jesus?

Ans: They reported back to Jesus on what happened on their mission. In another words, they were accountable to Jesus.

Q4: In your life, what areas do you see being “Accountable” most helpful to you? And what would be your motivation for wanting that accountability?

Ans: Finances, because I would get into serious debt if I don't have accountability.

Q5: What do you personally fear most about having Accountability in your life?

Ans: Losing independence, being criticized, being looked down on, my pride being hurt, embarrassment.

Point 1: We all need to have accountability in our life. Like it or not we are accountable to someone even if that someone is just yourself. But ultimately we are accountable to God. It says in Heb 4:13 that we all

must give account to God. Think about your “Character” and how you think, feel and respond to having accountability in your life.

Now, let’s spend a little time talking about our “Motivation” for accountability.

Have a volunteer read verse 17.

Q6: Why were the disciples so fired up when they returned to Jesus?

Ans: They had success. Demons submitted to “Them” in Jesus name.

Q7: Imagine you were one of the 72, how would you feel?

Ans: I would think I am hot, I am the maaan! Satan can’t mess with me. Even if I did invoke the name of Jesus but surely I had something to do with it. It must have been my incredible faith. I am pretty awesome!

Q8: Let’s look closely at Jesus’ response to all this excitement? In verse 20 Jesus says... what? Why do you think Jesus said that?

Ans: He wanted the disciples to understand the true motivation for following God’s instructions.

Point 2 and Conclusion:

The true motivation for doing God’s work is because it makes Him HAPPY. He is fired up when we follow his instructions and are accountable to Him. In verse 21, it says Jesus was full of JOY... because our names are written in heaven and that is what makes God happy. That should be our motivation and hence our need to have accountability in our life.

In the illustration we did in the beginning, you noticed that at least one person did not follow the instructions exactly because he/she thought THEIR way was better. We too can get into the trap of thinking my way is better or feels better to me. Remember, it makes God happy when we follow His instructions and are held accountable to it. We do it because it gives Him JOY.