

What Is Discipleship?

OCTOBER 11, 2026

STUDY TEXT: MARK 1:14–20

Discuss the following BIG IDEAs and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.

BIG IDEA 1: Following Jesus Requires Surrender, Trust, and Daily Obedience (Mark 1:14–17a)

Live It Out: Identify an area of your life where following Jesus requires deeper trust or surrender. Ask God to help you follow Him more fully.

- *Why do you think Jesus called ordinary people to follow Him?*
- *What makes surrender difficult when following Christ?*

Live It Out: Follow Jesus more intentionally in everyday life this week through your words, attitudes, relationships, or decisions.

- *How would you explain the difference between believing in Jesus and truly following Him?*
- *What are some ways following Jesus should shape everyday decisions and relationships?*

BIG IDEA 2: Spiritual Growth Happens Intentionally Through a Relationship With Christ (Mark 1:18–20)

Live It Out: Choose one intentional step that can help you grow spiritually this week. Spend additional time in Scripture, strengthen a prayer habit, connect with a mentor, or encourage another believer in his or her faith journey.

- *Why does spiritual growth require intentionality rather than passive belief?*
- *Which spiritual habits most help believers grow in their relationship with Christ?*
- *Why is spiritual community important for continued growth as a disciple?*
- *How can discipleship become more than a once-a-week activity?*

BIG IDEA 3: Healthy Disciples Help Others Follow Jesus and Grow in Their Faith (Mark 1:17b)

Live It Out: Identify one person God may be inviting you to influence spiritually. It could be a family member, coworker, classmate, neighbor, or fellow church member. Pray for that person this week and look for one practical opportunity to encourage, serve, or invest in that person's faith journey.

- *Why do you think Jesus connected discipleship with influencing others?*

- *What differences do you see between the disciples' commitment to Jesus and the way discipleship is often practiced today?*
- *How can believers influence others without pretending to be perfect?*
- *What are some practical ways believers can intentionally invest in others spiritually?*

WORK TOGETHER TO MEMORIZE THE FAMILY SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

Colossians 2:6–7

Build a Foundation

Discussion questions for elementary age students.

1. *Why do you think Jesus chose ordinary people to be His disciples instead of more religious or powerful people?*
2. *Why is obedience an important part of being a disciple?*
3. *Why is growing your discipleship journey with Jesus so important to your faith?*

Everyday Extras

Use construction paper, markers, crayons, and other decorative items to create pictures to hang around your house as a reminder to love God with all your heart, soul, and strength. Write Deuteronomy 6:5–6 on pieces of construction paper for younger family members and let them decorate around the verses. Let older family members write the verses and decorate around it. As family members are working on the pictures, talk about ways they can love God with their heart, soul, and strength in their everyday lives. Make additional pictures to share God's Word with others.

Stand Strong

What does it look like to be a disciple of Jesus?

Being a disciple of Jesus means learning about Him and following Him with your whole life. It includes learning from His Word, obeying His commands, and becoming more like Him in your thoughts and actions. Discipleship is not just a one-time decision—it is a daily commitment to walk with Jesus. It also means helping others know and follow Him.

Scripture: Luke 9:23; Matthew 11:29; 28:19–20

Preschool Highlights

Today your child learned Matthew 7:12 teaches us to treat others the way we want to be treated and that includes being kind. Jesus gave us an example of kindness when He met the Samaritan woman. He showed her kindness through His words and actions when no one else did. **I Can Learn From Jesus** to be kind to others like He was.



Discipleship was never meant to be limited to the church building or a weekly Bible study. God designed faith to be lived out and passed down within the home (Deuteronomy 6:6–7). Parents, grandparents, and families play a vital role in helping the next generation follow Jesus daily through conversations, prayer, encouragement, and consistent example. The home is often the first and most influential place where discipleship begins.