

GROWTH GROUPS

September 16, 2012

Isaiah 2:2-4; Mark 1:14-20; Acts 2:42

Conversation Starter:

Have you ever thought about what it was like when Jesus came into a village at the beginning of his ministry and called people to come follow him? Picture yourself as James and John's father in the boat with their fishing business; the sons leave abruptly to follow Jesus...what would your be thinking?

Understanding: In Mark 1:14-20, Jesus comes to the local villages and invites different people to come follow him in discipleship. They left everything they knew and went to live with and follow Jesus for the next three years. There was an established culture of different Rabbis inviting people to become their disciple. So the idea was not foreign. Think about who Jesus invited to become disciples. They were not prominent religious scholars, authors, artists, or other "special people", but each person was willing to leave all to follow him. The modern church has made it seem like there are church members and then another more dedicated class of believer called disciple. This was not Jesus' initial intent. He wanted to use the average person to transform the world. The book of Acts paints a picture of the early new converts devoting themselves to certain activities so that they could become disciples...Christ followers.

Questions

1. Some people ask why Jesus chose the people that he did to become disciples. Why did Jesus choose Judas Iscariot, who would later betray him? But today, perhaps a trickier question is why would Jesus choose me or you as a person to become his disciple?
2. Jesus' early disciples left everything and went to follow him. What did it cost the early disciples to follow Jesus? What did Jesus do to help them become good disciples?
3. Is it hard to be a Christ follower today? What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus today? Does it mean leaving everything, literally or spiritually?
4. Why do people look at those who want to be dedicated disciples of Jesus today as if they were unusual in Church membership or some few, chosen people?

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