

PORTRAITS OF DISCIPLESHIP

by Heath Rogers



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Introduction

Jesus calls us to follow Him and to become His disciples, but what does it mean to be a disciple of Christ?

Jesus was very open and honest about the demands of discipleship and called upon men to count the cost to make sure that they were willing to meet these demands (Luke 14:25-33). We cannot truly call ourselves “disciples” today if we are not meeting these demands that the Lord has set forth in His word.

Our Lord was the Master Teacher. He often employed illustrations in His teaching, making use of common items to better explain spiritual realities. The image of a shepherd looking for his lost sheep, a sower going forth to sow seed, a blind man trying to lead another blind man, or a camel going through the eye of a needle, made effective teaching tools.

There were times when Jesus spoke very plainly about the demands of discipleship. However, the Lord also made use of various illustrations to emphasize particular responsibilities and blessings of discipleship. In looking at these illustrations that were used by the Lord and His apostles, we can gain a better understanding and appreciation of what it means to be a true disciple of Christ.

As the table of contents will point out, the lessons in this book are arranged according to the different relationships and responsibilities that are involved in discipleship. All of the illustrations used by the Lord and His disciples had limitations in application. As one proceeds through this study, he should not try to overextend these illustrations, but should appreciate the points of application that are found in each illustration.

Unless otherwise noted, all Bible quotations are taken from the New King James Version.

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Lesson 1

WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP?

The Disciple's Identity

"Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me'" (Luke 9:23)

Questions

1. What is a disciple? A learner or pupil; a devoted supporter or follower of one's teacher.
2. Is everyone who claims to follow Jesus a true disciple? No.
3. What does it mean to deny self? To remove from one's heart everything and everyone that would hinder total obedience to Christ.
4. What does Jesus mean when He requires us to "hate" our loved ones (compare Luke 14:26 with Matt. 10:37)? To love less than we love Christ.
5. How does Paul view his life in Christ (Gal. 2:20)? He was crucified with Christ, the life he now lived was lived for Christ.
6. Who should a disciple of Christ seek to please (2 Cor. 5:9)? The Lord.
7. What does Jesus mean when He speaks of taking up one's cross (Luke 9:23)? Being willing to suffer for the cause of Christ.
8. What promise is found in 2 Timothy 3:12? All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
9. How are we to follow Christ today (John 8:31)? By following His teaching.
10. What were the apostles to do after they had made disciples (Matt. 28:20)? Teach them to observe all that Jesus had commanded.
11. What does it mean to call Jesus "Lord" (Luke 6:46)? That we have made Him our Master.
12. What is expected from those who abide in the teachings of Christ (John 15:8)? That they bear much fruit.
13. What new commandment does Jesus give His disciples (John 13:34-35)? That they love one another as He loved them.

14. How do we show our love for God (1 John 4:12, 20-21)? *By the way that we love other disciples.*
15. What role does love play in our relationship with other disciples (Col. 3:14)? *Love is that which binds us together.*
16. What does Jesus want us to do before we commit ourselves to following Him (Luke 14:28)? *Count the cost.*
17. Describe the kind of commitment we must make in order to be true disciples of Christ (Luke 9:57-62). *We must put Jesus first and follow Him without looking back.*

Lesson 2

AN ATHLETE

The Disciple's Commitment

"Run in such a way that you may obtain it" (1 Cor. 9:24)

Questions

1. Describe the kind of training that contestants had to undergo in order to compete in the ancient athletic games. *Contestants were required to prepare for a period of ten months prior to the games. Thirty days before the events began, they stayed at one place, exercised regularly, followed a strict diet, avoided luxuries and rested.*
2. What happened to a contestant who failed to follow these training guidelines? *He was disqualified from the games.*
3. What does the word "temperate" mean? *To exercise self-restraint; to have power over one's self.*
4. How is temperance important to an athlete? *An athlete must control himself and avoid those things that will hinder him in his training.*
5. How is temperance important to a disciple? *A disciple must control himself and avoid those things that will hinder him from serving Christ.*
6. In what sense does Paul "buffet" or "discipline" his own body (1 Cor. 9:27)? *An extreme practice of self-mastery.*
7. Why does Paul "buffet" or "discipline" his body? *So that nothing would come between him and total obedience to Christ.*
8. In contrast to bodily exercise, how is exercising oneself in godliness profitable for all things (1 Tim. 4:7-8)? *Exercising in godliness has the promise of life that now is and the one that is to come.*
9. List some ways that we can exercise ourselves in godliness. *Praying, obeying the truth, learning and defending the word of God, spreading the gospel, helping other Christians, showing a willingness to suffer for the sake of the gospel, and finishing the course.*
10. How must an athlete compete if he is to win the crown (2 Tim. 2:5)? *According to the rules.*

11. Why do we have need of endurance (Heb. 10:36)? We must finish the race, keep running until we reach the goal.
12. What are some "weights" that must be laid aside in order to follow Christ more effectively (Heb. 12:1)? Things that are sinful, things that become a distraction from our service to Christ.
13. Are these "weights" always things that are sinful in and of themselves? Explain. No, even innocent things can preoccupy our time and energy and keep us from serving Christ as we should.

Lesson 3

A SOLDIER

The Disciple's Battle

"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Tim. 2:3)

Questions

1. Who is our commander (2 Tim. 2:3-4)? [Jesus Christ.](#)
2. How does John describe Jesus in Revelation 19:11-16? [Riding on a white horse, judging and making war in righteousness, eyes like a flame of fire, wearing many crowns, armies in heaven followed Him on white horses, striking the nations with a sharp sword proceeding out of His mouth, ruling the nations with a rod of iron, treading the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.](#)
3. Describe how Jesus is willing to help us in our spiritual battles (Heb. 2:18, 4:14-16, 7:25). [He knows what we go through. He sympathizes with our weaknesses. He is able to save to the uttermost.](#)
4. Who is our adversary? [The devil.](#)
5. What do the following verses tell us about our enemy?
 - [John 8:44 - He is a murderer and a liar.](#)
 - [1 Peter 5:8 - He is a vicious predator, attacking the weak and unsuspecting.](#)
 - [2 Cor. 11:14 - He disguises himself and his true motives.](#)
 - [Eph. 6:12 - He has help in the spiritual realm.](#)
 - [2 Tim. 2:26 - He has help from those who are ensnared through sin and error.](#)
6. Describe each piece of the armor of God and its spiritual application to the life of a disciple (Eph. 6:14-17).
 - [Belt - Held everything in place; truth gives the disciple stability as he fights](#)
 - [Breastplate - Protected the heart; righteousness protects a disciple's character.](#)
 - [Shoes - Sandals with hobnailed spikes that assured good footing; a disciple must be prepared to use the gospel of peace.](#)
 - [Shield - A full body shield deflecting and absorbing blows from the enemy; a disciple's faith protects him against the attacks of the devil.](#)

Helmet – Protected the head; assurance of salvation allows the disciple to hold up his head in the fight.

Sword – Offensive weapon; the word of God is a disciple's sharp, two-edged sword.

7. What is expected of a disciple (Heb. 5:12-14, 2 Tim. 2:15)? That they grow in their knowledge of God's word.
8. When do disciples undergo their training? When we read, study, meditate, attend worship services and Bible classes, etc.
9. What does the word "wrestle" imply about our spiritual battle (Eph. 6:12)? It is messy and personal; hand-to-hand combat.
10. What does Jesus use to resist the devil (Matt. 4:1-11)? The word of God.
11. What is promised to those who resist the devil (James 4:7)? He will flee from you.
12. What are some hardships that must be endured by soldiers of Christ? Resisting temptation, overcoming moments of doubt and fear, standing for the truth, contending for the faith when error threatens the Lord's church, dealing with the desertion of fellow soldiers, etc.
13. Where does this spiritual battle take place (2 Cor. 10:3-5, 2 Tim. 2:24-26)? In the hearts and minds of men.

Lesson 4

THE POTTER AND THE CLAY

The Disciple's Transformation

“O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?” says the Lord. ‘Look, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!’ (Jer. 18:6)

Questions

1. What message does God reveal to Jeremiah at the potter’s house (Jer. 18:6)? *That He was the Potter and Israel was the clay.*
2. Why doesn’t the clay criticize the potter’s work (Rom. 9:20-21)? *Because the potter has power and authority over the clay.*
3. What does God have in mind when He gives us commands to obey (Deut. 6:24)? *Our good that He might preserve us.*
4. What form should disciples desire to take (Gal. 4:19)? *Their Master, Jesus Christ.*
5. Are we willing participants in God’s molding process? *Answer will vary based on each student’s personal response.*
6. What condition must clay be in before it can be shaped and molded? *Soft and malleable.*
7. What role does humility and meekness play in this molding process? *Allows us to be receptive to the Lord’s teaching.*
8. What is supposed to happen to our minds (Rom. 12:2)? *Transformed or changed.*
9. How does Paul describe this transformation/molding process (Eph. 4:22-24, Col. 3:9-10)? *Our mind is renewed as we study and learn the teachings of Christ.*
10. What purpose does God have in mind with this molding process (2 Tim. 2:20-21, Eph. 2:10)? *That we become a prepared and useful servant.*
11. What does the illustration of the potter and the clay say about our need for God? *No one can achieve their full potential without God.*
12. What does the illustration of the potter and the clay say about God’s patience with us (Jer. 18:4)? *God is willing to take the time that is necessary for us to be formed into a useful vessel, correcting the mistakes that we make.*

13. What interest does God have in our lives and our potential (Ps. 139:13-16)? [God created us, knows us, and has a plan for our lives.](#)

Lesson 5

THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

The Disciple's Dependence Upon Christ

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5)

Questions

1. How many times are the words "in Me" found in John 15:1-8? **6 times.**
2. What does the word "abide" mean? **To stay or remain.**
3. How does a disciple abide in Christ? Use Scriptures to support your answer? **By following the teaching of Christ (John 15:10, 8:31; 1 John 2:5, 3:24).**
4. Explain how branches are dependent upon the vine and how this applies to a disciple's relationship with Christ. **Branches derive their life from the vine. If they are cut off, they will die. Likewise, disciples draw their spiritual life and ability to produce fruit from Christ.**
5. Who are disciples to be like (Luke 6:40)? **His teacher - Christ.**
6. What does God want disciples to produce? **Fruit.**
7. Why does God prune the fruitful branches (v. 2)? **So they can be more fruitful.**
8. How does God cleanse or prune disciples? Provide Scriptures to support your answer. **He cleanses us with His word (Psa. 119:9), disciplines us through His providence (Heb. 12:10-11), and allows us to suffer, knowing that such occasions give us opportunities to mature (James 1:2-4, Rom. 5:3-4).**
9. What happens to those disciples who fail to produce fruit (v. 2) or fail to abide in Christ (v. 6)? **Taken away, cast out, allowed to wither and die, and cast into the fire and burned.**
10. What condition does Christ place upon prayer in John 15:7? **If we abide in Christ and His word abides in us.**
11. Explain how God is glorified when disciples produce fruit. **It is a reflection of God's planning, protection, and providential care of us. When people see us faithfully serving Christ, they will give glory to God.**

Match the correct Scripture with the spiritual fruit that we are to produce.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| D Spiritual growth and maturity | a. Eph. 2:10 |
| F Increased talents and opportunities | b. Rom. 1:13 |
| A Good deeds | c. Phil. 4:15-16 |
| C Gospel efforts | d. 2 Pet. 1:5-8 |
| B Winning lost souls | e. Heb. 13:15 |
| E Praising God | f. Matt. 25:14-30 |

Lesson 6

A CHILD OF GOD

The Disciple's Security

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12)

Questions

1. Who gives us the right to be called children of God (John 1:12)? *Jesus Christ.*
2. How does the Holy Spirit bear witness with our spirit that we are children of God (Rom. 8:16)? *The Holy Spirit has told us what we must do in order to be a child of God and our spirit knows whether or not we met those conditions. If we have met these conditions, then we are a child of God.*
3. In your own words, explain the significance of God adopting you as His child. *Answer will vary based on each student's personal experience.*
4. Who gives the name "Christian" to the disciples (Acts 11:26)? *God, our Father.*
5. What are children of God to do in this world (Phil. 2:15)? *Shine as lights in the midst of a wicked and perverse generation.*
6. How can we know that God loves us (Rom. 5:8)? *He sent His Son to die for us while we were in our sins.*
7. Of what is John confident (1 John 5:14-15)? *That, if we ask anything according to God's will, He hears us and we receive our petitions.*
8. What had David never seen (Ps. 37:25)? *The righteous forsaken or his descendants begging bread.*
9. Why should we not worry about our daily necessities (Matt. 6:32, 7:11)? *God knows our needs and cares for us as a loving Father.*
10. Who helps us overcome the world (1 John 4:4, Heb. 13:5-6)? *God, our Father.*
11. How does God help us during times of temptation (1 Cor. 10:13)? *He does not allow us to be tempted beyond measure and provides a way of escape.*
12. How does God guide us (Matt. 4:4)? *Through His word.*

13. How should we respond to God's chastening (Heb. 12:5-11)? **We should be in subjection and receive His chastening as for our good.**
14. What do faithful children of God stand to inherit (Rev. 21:7)? **That which belongs to our Father - heaven.**
15. How does Peter describe our inheritance (1 Pet. 1:3-4)? **An inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled, does not fade away, and is reserved in heaven for us.**

Match the correct Scripture with the corresponding responsibility of being a child of God.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| F To grow | a. Matt. 22:36-38 |
| D Come out and be separate | b. 1 Cor. 10:13 |
| E Depart from iniquity | c. 2 Cor. 5:7 |
| A Love God | d. 2 Cor. 6:17-18 |
| H Obey God's commandments | e. 2 Tim. 2:19 |
| C Walk by faith | f. 2 Pet. 3:18 |
| B Take way of escape from temptation | g. 1 John 1:9 |
| G Confess and pray for forgiveness | h. 1 John 5:3 |

Lesson 7

A MEMBER OF THE BODY

The Disciple's Place

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another"
(Rom. 12:5)

Questions

1. Describe the difference between the "universal" church and the "local" church. The term "universal church" refers to all those who are saved. The term "local church" refers to all the saved in a given location.
2. How does one become a member of the universal church (Acts 2:47)? One becomes a member of the universal church when they are saved.
3. What are some benefits of being a member of a local church?
Heb. 10:24-25 Support and edification.
James 5:14-16 The prayers of the brethren.
Eccl. 4:9-12 Can draw needed strength from other members.
4. Describe the spiritual danger of one who purposely distances himself from other disciples (1 Pet. 5:8-9). The disciple who chooses to distance and separate himself from the members of the local church has made himself vulnerable to Satan.
5. What role does God play in the creation of the local church (1 Cor. 12:18, 24)? God has designed and created the church.
6. How does Paul describe the closeness of the relationship that should exist between members of the local church (1 Cor. 12:25-26)? It should be as close as the members of a physical body.
7. List some things that disciples are to show toward one another as they endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:2, Col. 3:12-15). Humility, gentleness, patience, compassion, kindness, forgiveness, and love.

True or False

- FALSE** 1. Some members of the church, by virtue of their race, gender or social status, enjoy a greater access to God than the other members.
- TRUE** 2. Christ only has one spiritual body of believers.
- FALSE** 3. Paul teaches that Peter was the head of the church.

- FALSE** 4. Preachers, elders, and teachers are more important than other members.
- TRUE** 5. Love is the bond of perfection.
- FALSE** 6. The Bible acknowledges that there is a diversity of talents and abilities within every local church.
- FALSE** 7. The local church should not experience any growth.
- FALSE** 8. A disciple can best please Christ by staying separate from other disciples.
- TRUE** 9. Every member is responsible for maintaining the moral purity of the local church.
- FALSE** 10. The church can function at its best with only some of its members doing their share.

Thought Question

Some Christians have the idea they can be members at large or can float around from one congregation to another. What does the Bible teach about one's need to be identified as a member of a local church? [Like Paul, Christians should seek to join themselves as members of a faithful local congregation \(Acts 9:26\) and contribute to the work.](#)

"MY BROTHER'S KEEPER"

The Disciple's Support

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:24-25, KJV)

Questions

1. Why should we "owe" our brethren our love? Consider Romans 13:8-10 and 1 John 4:10-11 in your answer. *Walking in love will keep us from doing harm to one another. We ought to love one another because God loves us.*
2. Why is it hard for some to consider others? *We often focus on ourselves and lose sight of the needs of others.*
3. What do Romans 12:10 and Philippians 2:4 teach about our attitude towards others? *We are to put the needs of others before ourselves.*
4. How can we provoke or stimulate our brethren on to love and good works? *By our consideration and sincere interest, by our good example, and by our good deeds.*
5. The word "exhort" is translated from the Greek word **parakaleo**. What does this word literally mean? *To call to one's side.*
6. Describe some ways that we can exhort our brethren. *Warning the unruly (1 Cor. 4:14), consoling and comforting the fainthearted (1 Thess. 5:11, Rom. 12:15), supporting the weak (Heb. 12:12), relieving a burden (Gal. 6:2), encouraging (Rom. 12:8, Acts 4:36), and teaching (Tit. 1:9).*
7. Who is responsible for restoring erring brethren (Gal. 6:1)? *Those who are spiritual.*
8. What does Jesus teach about the worth of our brother's soul (Matt. 18:12-14)? *He is worth leaving the ninety-nine and going to bring him back into the fold.*
9. How is love to be shown (1 John 3:17-18)? *By good deed.*
10. As they have opportunity, Christians should be especially willing to do good to those who are of the "Household of faith" (Gal. 6:10).
11. Why do we need examples (Phil. 3:17, 2 Thess. 3:9, 1 Tim. 4:12)? *To show us how to live faithfully to God.*

12. What should mature Christians keep in mind regarding their weaker brethren (1 Cor. 8:7-13)? **Words cannot provide for the needs of others. It requires action.**
13. Identify some times when patience must be shown among brethren. **Those who are mature must be patient as new converts grow in the faith. We must be patient when we differ in matters of opinion and judgment.**
14. How does patience help the body of Christ to remain strong? **We will not judge one another and divide over differences.**
15. Why must we be willing to forgive our brother when he repents (Matt. 18:35)? **If we do not forgive our brother from our heart, God will not forgive us.**
16. What are we to do when an erring brother comes back to the Lord (2 Cor. 2:6-9)? **Forgive him, comfort him, and reaffirm our love for him.**

Lesson 9

A SERVANT

The Disciple's Greatness

"...whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave" (Matt. 20:26-27)

Questions

1. What role does Jesus take when He came into this world (Matt. 20:28, Phil. 2:7)? **A Servant.**
2. Contrast the standard of greatness in the world with the standard of greatness in the Lord's kingdom (Matt. 20:26-27). **The world determines greatness by one's authority and ability to demand service, while the Lord determines greatness by one's willingness to serve.**
3. What is the primary obligation of a servant? **It is to his master.**
4. How does Jesus expand the role of His servants? Who are they to serve? **We are to serve Christ and to serve one another.**
5. Why is it difficult for some people to take on the role of a servant? **They have to humble themselves.**
6. What does Jesus say about the individual who does his good deeds in order to be seen by men (Matt. 6:1-4)? **He has already received his reward. He will not receive a reward from God.**
7. What powerful illustration does Jesus use to set an example of humility and service before His disciples (John 13:3-17)? **He washed the feet of His disciples as a common household servant.**
8. When are we most like Christ? **When we are giving ourselves in service to others.**
9. What kinds of attitudes does an effective servant need to possess? **Love, meekness, kindness, gentleness, and humility.**
10. What is to characterize the people that Jesus has redeemed and purified (Titus 2:14)? **We know our task and are ready to serve.**
11. What kind of attitude should we have towards the needs of others (Phil. 2:3-4)? **They are more pressing than our own needs.**
12. Why can't a disciple serve with only kind words and good intentions (James 2:15-16)? **Words cannot provide for the needs of others. It requires actions.**

13. How does Jesus say that disciples serve Him (Matt. 25:35-40)? **By serving others.**
14. Why is it important that we meet the emotional needs of our brethren? **We need to encourage them and help them through their trials, less they be overcome and fall under their burden.**
15. How are we to meet the various spiritual needs of our brethren? Provide Scriptures to support your answers. **Babes in Christ need to be established in the faith (1 Pet. 2:2). Those who are struggling need to be exhorted (Heb. 3:12-13). Those who are unruly need to be warned (1 Thess. 5:14). Those who are backsliding need to be restored (Gal. 6:1). Also, those who are unfaithful need to be rescued (James 5:19-20).**
16. List some sacrifices that the Good Samaritan made in order to help the man who was in need (Luke 10:30-37). **He sacrificed his safety, his time, his property, the comfort of riding on his animal, and his money.**
17. Why is Jesus given the name which is above every name (Phil. 2:5-11)? **Because He humbled Himself as a servant and became obedient unto death.**

Lesson 10

STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS

The Disciple's Walk of Faith

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (Heb. 11:13)

Questions

1. What does the word "stranger" mean? *"A foreigner." Thus, a stranger is one who is out of his own country, someone who is in a foreign land.*
2. What does the word "pilgrim" mean? *A resident foreigner, one who lives among a people who are not his own.*
3. How does Abraham view his relationship with the citizens of Canaan (Gen. 23:4)? *He considered himself to be a foreigner and a visitor among them.*
4. How does our becoming a disciple of Christ change our citizenship (Col. 1:13, Phil. 3:20)? *We are called out of this world and made citizens of Heaven.*
5. What kind of treatment does Jesus say that His disciples could expect from the world? Why? (John 15:18-21) *The world will hate us because it hates Christ.*
6. Why should a disciple consider the world to be "enemy territory" (1 John 5:19)? *This world lies under the sway of Satan.*
7. Why does Peter say that the world will think we are strange (1 Pet. 4:1-4)? *We no longer do the things that those in the world do.*
8. What does it take to live as a stranger and a pilgrim in this world (2 Cor. 5:7)? *We must walk by faith.*
9. Abraham and Sarah did not receive all of God's promises during their lifetime, but they *Saw* them afar off, were *Assured* of them and *Embraced* them (Heb. 11:13).
10. By faith Abraham *Obedied* God (Heb. 11:8).
11. What admonitions does Peter give to sojourners and pilgrims (1 Pet. 1:17, 2:11-12)? *Conduct ourselves with fear and abstain from fleshly lusts.*
12. What are the consequences of loving the world (1 John 2:15-17, James 4:4)? *We will perish with the world and are enemies of God.*

13. Upon what condition will God receive us as His sons and daughters (2 Cor. 6:17-18)?
If we come out of the world and are separate from it.
14. Why does Esau lose his birthright (Heb. 12:15-17, Gen. 25:29-34)? He sold his birthright in order to satisfy an immediate physical desire.
15. What do followers of Christ need in order to receive the promise (Heb. 10:36)? Endurance.

SALT AND LIGHT

The Disciple's Influence

"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:13-14).

Questions

1. What is influence? *The power that we have to affect others.*
2. How does Peter describe Jesus to the household of Cornelius (Acts 10:38)? *He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil.*
3. Describe how disciples are to act as preservatives in this sinful world. *When we follow Christ in doing what is good and actively opposing evil, we are helping to prevent the moral decay of our society.*
4. Describe the kind of "flavor" that disciples are to provide to the world (Rom. 12:15, 2 Cor. 1:3-6, Gal. 6:2, 2 Tim. 1:16, Heb 13:16). *We are to lighten burdens (Gal. 6:2) and provide comfort (2 Cor. 1:3-6) by weeping with those who weep (Rom. 12:15), refresh others (2 Tim. 1:16), and do good and share (Heb. 13:16).*
5. What does Proverbs 22:1 say about the value of our influence? *It is to be valued more than riches, silver, and gold.*
6. Describe some ways that a disciple can lose his good influence. Use Scriptures to support your answers. *By failing to practice what he preaches (Rom. 2:17-24; 2 Cor. 8:21), compromising with sin and error (Gal. 2:4-5; 2 Cor. 6:14), and involvement in worldly activities (drinking, dancing, immodest dress, ungodly entertainment, etc. - 2 Tim. 2:9; James 4:4).*
7. What does Jesus say about the salt that lost its flavor (Matt. 5:13)? *It is good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*
8. How do faithful disciples create a spiritual thirst in others and draw them out of spiritual darkness? *We must come into contact with those in the world. They must see the way that we are able to weather the storms of life with peace, hope, and joy.*
9. Explain how the life of a faithful disciple is like the "shining sun" (Prov. 4:18). *The life of a faithful disciple lights a path that others can see and follow.*
10. What do men do when they see our good works (Matt. 5:16)? *Glorify our Father in Heaven.*

11. What do men do when they see us commit sin (Rom. 2:21-24)? Blaspheme the name of God and choose not to become a Christian.

Lesson 12

AN APOLOGIST

The Disciple's Answer

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear"
(1 Peter 3:15).

Questions

1. What does Peter tell suffering Christians to be ready to do (1 Pet. 3:15)? *To give an answer or defense for their faith.*
2. What is Paul appointed to do (Phil. 1:16-17)? *For the defense of the gospel.*
3. What do the words "earnestly contend" mean (Jude 3)? *The word "contend" means to fight or struggle for something as a combatant. "Earnestly" is translated from an athletic term which means to agonize. The words describe the extent to which we must go in our efforts to defend the truth.*
4. What does it mean to sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts? *To set aside Christ from all others as the Lord and Master in our heart.*
5. Why is this the first step in preparing ourselves to give an answer for our faith? *With Jesus seated upon the throne of our heart, we will respond to Him in obedience (John 14:15) and confidence (Heb. 13:5-6), believing that His teaching is worth defending.*
6. What problem is addressed in Hebrews 5:12-14? *Christians had been given enough time to learn and develop as teachers, but they wasted this opportunity and needed someone to teach them again the first principles of the oracles of God.*
7. What kinds of things can we do to prepare ourselves to defend our faith (2 Tim. 2:15)? *Studying the Bible on our own, preparing for Bible classes, attending every worship service, going to gospel meetings, reading debates, and other sound Biblical literature.*
8. How should we harmonize the instructions in 1 Peter 3:15 with passages like 1 Timothy 6:3-5, 2 Timothy 2:16-18 and Matthew 7:6? *We must exercise wisdom in knowing those who are sincere in their effort to learn the truth and knowing those who are just wanting to quarrel and argue.*
9. What is meekness and why is it important when giving a defense of our faith? *Meekness is gentleness. It is important that we treat others with respect as we talk with them about our faith.*

10. What instructions does Paul give in Colossians 4:6? Let your speech always be seasoned with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.
11. Why is it important that disciples of Christ maintain a good conscience? Despite having confidence in our faith, living inconsistently with it can have a devastating effect upon our influence.

Lesson 13

FISHERS OF MEN

The Disciple's Task

"Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men" (Mark 1:17)

Questions

1. Why did Jesus come to this world (Luke 19:10)? *To seek and to save that which was lost.*
2. Why does Jesus call Peter and Andrew to follow Him (Mark 1:17)? *So He could make them fishers of men.*
3. Who does a disciple seek to please (2 Cor. 5:9, 2 Tim. 2:4)? *Christ.*
4. How can one walk "worthy of the Lord" (Col. 1:10)? *By being fruitful in every good deed.*
5. What does God want for mankind (1 Tim. 2:3-4)? *All men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*
6. What dilemma does the Lord speak of in Matthew 9:37-38? *The harvest of lost souls is great, but the laborers are too few.*
7. Why do the four lepers feel compelled to tell others of the good news that they had found (2 Kings 7:9)? *It was not right for them to keep the good news to themselves.*
8. Name one of the duties that disciples have (Matt. 28:19, Acts 14:21). *To make disciples.*
9. What happens to the watchman who fails to warn of approaching danger (Ezek. 33:6-8)? *The blood of people will be on his own head.*
10. Why is Paul innocent of the blood of all men (Acts 20:26-27)? *He had declared the whole counsel of God unto them.*
11. Why does the father rejoice when his prodigal son returned home (Luke 15:32)? *Because he had been lost, but now he was found.*
12. Peter and Andrew used a net to catch fish. What are we to use to catch men (Rom. 1:16)? *The gospel.*

Thought Question

Do you know someone who needs to hear the gospel? What can you do to help bring that person unto Christ? [Answers will vary based on each student.](#)