

Study Series: Follow Me

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Lesson Title: “Don’t Make Jesus Your Personal   
Lord and Savior” (pp. 143-156)

Session 11

November 13, 2022

The main point of this lesson is: Following Jesus means believing Him and proclaiming Him to others.

Focus on this goal: To help adults make proclaiming Jesus the desire of their lives

Key Bible Passage: Matthew 4:19; 28:19-20; Philippians 1:21

Before the Session

Continue displaying the Matthew 4:19 poster.

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Note the popularity of social media has led to some really dangerous trends, particularly among teenagers. Ask if adults can identify any of those trends (they can search on their mobile devices). Consider why many might be shocked to hear that a dangerous trend in contemporary Christianity is represented by the statement, “I decided to make Jesus my personal Lord and Savior.”

Recall from this study’s Introduction (p. 100) that the author’s goal in asking questions about common phrases in contemporary Christianity is not to correct anyone who has used those phrases, but to uncover potential dangers that might be hiding behind the cliches.

Step 2. Believing Jesus Is Lord

Examine dangers in the statement, “I decided to make Jesus my Lord and Savior” using Day One paragraphs two and three (p. 143). Request adults privately consider Day One, activity 1 (p. 144).

Read the paragraph (p. 144) beginning with, “As we follow Jesus, we believe Jesus . . ..” Declare: Being a Christian is far more than intellectual belief in Jesus, but the promises and privileges of following Jesus are tied to believing Jesus with our minds. Following requires believing.

Discuss Day One, activity 2 (p. 145). Note the remainder of John 8 reveals that many who believed in Him didn’t have a saving faith because they refused to abide in Jesus’s word.

Request a volunteer read John 15:4-7. Analyze what it means to abide in Jesus’s word. State the mark of a genuine disciple is believing, remaining, and persevering in all that has been said about Jesus and by Jesus in the Scriptures.

Step 3. Resurrection Authority, Part 1

Ask: What gives the words spoken thousands of years ago by a Man who lived thousands of miles away any kind of authenticity and authority over our lives today? Explain.

Discuss Day Two, activity 1 (p. 146). Analyze why Jesus’s resurrection means people are not free to create a customizable Jesus or pick and choose which of His words to obey.

Invite a volunteer to read John 5:22-29. Consider why many people choose to not believe what Jesus spoke about judgment and hell. Explore why we should be cautious about questions that begin with, “Did God really say . . .?” Ask: What do disciples who take Jesus at His Word understand about hell?

Step 4. Resurrection Authority, Part 2

Ask: What do disciples who take Jesus at His Word understand about heaven? Invite two volunteers to read John 14:1-3 and Revelation 21:1-6.

Draw attention to the Matthew 4:19 poster and read the verse. Ask: In light of all we’ve discussed about heaven and hell why do Jesus’s words make sense?

Discuss Day Three, activity 1 (p. 148). Read the Day Three Note (p.148). State: Following requires believing and believing requires proclaiming. Determine reasons many Christians who believe Jesus don’t proclaim Jesus.

Ask adults if they’ve ever asked, “Who am I to tell people they must believe and trust in Jesus or they’ll spend an eternity in hell?” Discuss Day Three, activity 2 (p. 149). Invite a volunteer to read the last paragraph of Day Three (p. 150).

Step 5. Compelled by a Cosmic Savior

Discuss Day Four, activity 1 (p. 150). Analyze why that means Jesus must be regarded as so much more than just our own personal Lord and Savior.

Invite a volunteer to read the Day Four Note (p. 151). Consider the difference between being compelled to do something and being forced to do something. Recall from Session 10 (p. 134-135) what compelled the first disciples to obey Jesus’s Great Commission (supernatural regeneration). Request a volunteer read 2 Corinthians 5:14. Consider what else compels us to make disciples of all nations and why.

Invite a volunteer to read John 15:7-8. Explore what Jesus meant, and did not mean, with His promise in verse 7.

Urge adults to complete Day Four, activity 2 (p. 151) after the session today if they’ve not already done so.

Step 6. The Grand Story

Discuss Day Five, activity 1 (p. 152). Explore what a believer’s role is in God uniting all things together in Christ.

Read the Day Five paragraph (p. 153) beginning with “So we go as disciples of Jesus . . ..” Discuss Day Five, activity 2 (p. 153).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

State: Two dangerous trends after a lesson like this are either to feel so guilty we’re not proclaiming Jesus to the world that we just give up, or to try really hard to witness in our own strength. Evaluate healthy ways to respond to this type of lesson instead.

State: When Jesus becomes the primary love of our lives, proclaiming Him becomes the desire of our lives. And He gives us everything we need to live out that desire.

Pray Ephesians 3:14-20 as a closing prayer over the group.

