

Study Series: Follow Me

Author: David Platt

Lesson Title: “Children of God” (pp. 157-170)

Session 12

November 20, 2022

The main point of this lesson is: God desires disciples to follow Him as children follow a parent, not as servants follow a master.

Focus on this goal: To help adults find delight in being children of God and communing with Him

Key Bible Passage: Matthew 4:19; 6:6-9

Before the Session

Create a handout with: 1. What’s the most childlike thing you’ve done recently, and how did you feel about engaging in that activity? 2. What do you miss about being a child? Make copies for each participant.

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Form the group into smaller teams. Distribute the handout and allow teams several moments to discuss those questions. Invite volunteers to share some of what their team discussed. Point out this session examines what it means to be children of God.

Ask: How can grasping we are God’s children help us regain some of the things we miss about being a child? Note adults often miss the delight young children have; this lesson provides guidance on finding delight in God and consequently, all of life.

Step 2. A Servant or a Son?

Note the number of times God is called Father in the Old and New Testaments (p. 157). Read the Day One Note (p. 158). Discuss Day One, activity 1 (p. 158). State: The intimate term Abba is what Jesus called God in the garden of Gethsemane. What a privilege that the term that belonged to Jesus now belongs to His followers.

Read the main point of this lesson statement (p. 168). Analyze the difference between following God as a child rather than a servant. Determine which more likely leads to delight and why.

Step 3. The Father’s Delight

Request adults think about children whom they delight in. Read Zephaniah 3:17 in the CSB or NIV. Ask volunteers to share how it makes them feel to hear that God takes great delight in them as His children.

Determine ways the New Testament reveals that God delights in His children. Ask: Why would God even bother to make us His children? What is the only logical response to a God who delights in us in such a way?

Analyze whether it is possible to separate faith in Christ from feelings for Christ. Invite volunteers to share responses to Day Two, activity 2 (p. 160).

Step 4. True Pleasure

Invite a volunteer to read Psalm 63:1-5. State the hymn writer B. B. McKinney declared, “I am satisfied with Jesus.” Ask adults to estimate the percentage of believers who would genuinely agree with the psalmist and hymn writer about the true source of satisfaction.

Consider reasons for Christians’ lack of satisfaction in Jesus. Determine results of a believer’s lack of satisfaction in Jesus. Evaluate how a childlike faith in Christ can revive our satisfaction and delight in Him.

State: One of the oddest results of the coronavirus was loss of taste; one of the most amazing results of trusting Jesus is the transformation of taste. Discuss Day Three, activity 1 (p. 162).

Determine unhelpful ways believers might respond to the temptation of sin’s pleasures. Explore how trusting Jesus to transform our tastes is the better, and only, way to conquer sin.

Discuss the Day Three Note (p. 163). Invite a volunteer to read Philippians 3:7-11. Determine what believers might count as “gain” in their lives. Analyze why those could be counted as loss when compared with knowing Jesus. Invite a volunteer to read the last Day Three paragraph (p. 163).

Step 5. The Disciple’s Desire

State one facet of life that is transformed is our desire for God’s Word. Consider various reasons people read the Bible. Determine the reason believers whose tastes have been transformed by Jesus read the Bible.

Invite two volunteers to read Deuteronomy 32:47 and Matthew 4:4. Consider why those truths can compel believers to delight in God’s Word. Ask: What will we do when we love God’s Word greatly?

Declare a transformation of taste also leads us to crave communion with God in prayer. Discuss Day Four, activity 2 (p. 165). Use the remarks of Day Four (pp. 164-166) and the ACTS prayer acronym (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) to describe the natural flow of an intimate conversation with God.

Invite volunteers to share how they have discovered that the “discipline of prayer is designed by God for our delight and pleasure” (p. 166).

Step 6. The Disciple’s Delight

Invite volunteers to share how they have experienced delight in other spiritual disciplines such as worshiping, fasting, and giving.

Discuss Day Five, activity 1 (p. 167). Ask how those promises mean that believers can find great delight in sharing the gospel and making disciples.

Invite two volunteers to read John 4:7-15 and 4:28-30,39-42. Consider how the Samaritan woman is an example of the promise of John 7:38.

Read the last paragraph of Day Five (p. 167).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Read the Focus on this goal statement for this lesson (p. 168). Invite volunteers to share how this lesson has moved them further toward that goal.

Discuss Day Five, activity 2 (p. 167).

Close by praying Psalm 90:14 for the group.

