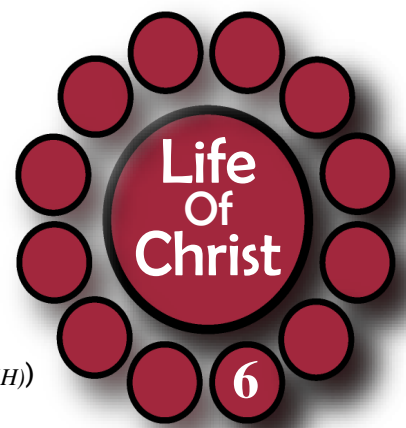


Although many rejected the Lord, there were those who received Him gladly. Each soon learned that God had a plan for their lives that involved service. (we are no different!) Each had something that the Lord required of them, something that no one else could fulfil.

Many women rendered service to their Lord and Master, Mary and Martha and others, however, in this lesson we are focusing upon the Lord's closest male followers, the twelve known as His disciples.



## HIS MEN

### PRODUCING GODLY MEN

For a detailed list of the twelve disciples, see the next handout (*Life of Christ 3(H)*) but for this lesson we are looking in particular at Peter.

#### A CALL TO SALVATION JOHN 1:40-42

In John 1 there are two disciples (*learners*) of John the Baptist, one was Andrew the other although not mentioned, it was possibly John himself. They heard John the Baptist preach but as yet they had not met the Saviour. As soon as John pointed out the Lord Jesus Christ, these two men followed Him.

Andrew goes straight away and brings his brother Peter, telling him that they had found the Messiah! This was the message that won Peter along with the other two to Christ. From this point on, Peter was a different man! 2 Corinthians 5:17

#### A CALL TO SERVICE MATTHEW 4:18-20

In this reading, we find a totally different situation. Peter found salvation when he met Jesus in Judea but now he is at Galilee receiving a different call. Jesus was calling Peter (with Andrew) to follow Him as His disciple. In their case, this meant leaving their work, (fishing) and committing their lives to the Lord, living in obedience to Him.

## STEPS IN PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLESHIP

| STEP 1                                                                                                                                            | STEP 2                                                                                                                                                                                | STEP 3                                                                                                                                                                                 | STEP 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>'CHARACTER'</b></p> <p>"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son."</p> <p>Romans 8:29</p> | <p><b>'BIBLE KNOWLEDGE'</b></p> <p>"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."</p> <p>2 Timothy 2:15</p> | <p><b>'SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING'</b></p> <p>"... to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."</p> <p>Colossians 1:9</p> | <p><b>'ACTION'</b></p> <p>"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."</p> <p>Romans 12:1</p> |

"A Disciple is something you are, not just something you do!"

This gives a wonderful example to us Christians today. We have experienced the joy of sins forgiven at Salvation, but have we ever understood that Salvation is not the end but only the beginning? God calls us all to a life devoted to Him, He

seeks those today who will be His disciples!

One of the biggest problems in this modern world of 'fast-tracking' is that many young believers do not take the time to be Godly, properly taught, become Spiritually wise, resulting in poor quality people who God often overlooks. Just as in our physical lives we took time to grow, strengthen, mature in character and increase in intellect, so we must allow God time to make us what He wants us to be!

In many different dealings Jesus had in training His disciples, we can see Him expanding their understanding, directing their operations and testing their progression until He finally presented accomplished servants of God who had a mighty ministry. If we desire to be used of God in His service we must be willing to follow the path of the twelve disciples and be properly trained.

(You could draw out a slide rule and under the four steps presented above, challenge the Christians in the group to set a marker at where they feel before God they stand in each area.)

The Bible records that the Lord asked His disciples to pray the,

"Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

We can pray the same prayer, but may God challenge our own hearts as to where we stand before Him in relation to our own service.

May we not be hearers only but doers of the word of the Lord.

