**Coming Home: Using First Steps/First Principles Bible Study Series**

**The Discipleship Study**

Remember the challenge: Every member in a study with someone this Fall (restoration, follow-up, Jesus Studies of First Steps)

For those we believe are most likely lost, we have two Bible study series:

1. Jesus Study Series.

2. His Steps (that we used to call First Principles)

**1. Is this person relatively religious? Does the person think he or she is probably saved? Do they, at least theoretically believe the Bible is from God?**

**This person should do the His Steps/First Principles Bible study series.**

**Or**

**2. This person has almost no or only a limited background in Christianity. He or she is not even completely sure that they believe Jesus is the Son of God or that the Bible is inspired by God.**

**This person should do the Jesus study series.**

We assume that you have done the Word study with this person and that you have done a spiritual timeline.

Follow up on the homework you assigned after the Word study.

**Discipleship Study**

Purpose:

1. To establish a biblical definition of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

2. To challenge the person with whom you are studying to make the commitment to be that kind of disciple.

As you do this study, Ask strongly directive questions.

John 8:31-32 Q: Have you been holding to the teachings of Jesus?

John 13:34-35 Q: Have you been part of a church like this?

Mark 1:14-18 Q: Have you been a fisher of people? Explain? Are you a disciple?

Luke 9:23-26 Q: Have you been denying self and carrying your cross?

Luke 14:25-33 Q: Have you counted the cost?

Matthew 28:18-20

These are Jesus’ last words of instruction to his apostles/disciples. We can assume that he speaks very carefully and intends this to be applied to all Christians.

Q: What are the three things Jesus tells all of us to do? (make disciples, baptize them [ie. those you made disciples of], teach them to obey.)

Q: What is a disciple, generically? (a student, follower, apprentice)

Acts 11:19-26 Q: What was the most common label for a follower of Jesus at that time? Answer: disciple. “Christian” used only three times in the NT, two of them by non-Christians as a put-down.

Let’s look at a biblical definition of a disciple.

John 8:31-32

Q: Who is Jesus talking to? Get them to answer the question!!! (the correct answer is Jewish people who believed in Jesus.)

Q: Were these believers in Jesus disciples? Why or why not?

Q: What does this tell you about being a disciple?

Q: Have you done this. Have you fully held to the teaching of Jesus? If so, when did this begin in your life?

Q: By this standard, are most “Christians” you meet out there disciples?

John 13:34-35

Q: What defines a disciple acc. to this passage?

Q: Who will recognize disciple by this “mark of discipleship”? (outsiders)

Q: Have you been part of a church where discipleship of this sort is normal?

John 15:5-8

Q: What is the mark or sign of being a disciple in this passage?

Q: What will this “bearing fruit” consist of?

Point out that this includes a changed life (for example Gal 5:22-23) and conversions. (Note: grape vines bear grapes, apple trees bear apples, a Christian tree bears Christians)

Q: Have you been bearing fruit?

Note: I skip 1 John 2:3-6 as redundant, and this is a long study!

Mark 1:14-18

Here Jesus is famously calling the first disciples. We can assume that this sets a standard for discipleship.

Q: What, specifically, did he call his disciples to do?

 -follow him

 -fish for men

Q: Is this something you have been doing on a regular basis?

Q: How did they respond to this call? (at once)

Luke 9:23-26

Q: What is Jesus asking all of his disciples to do?

Q: Is this optional for a disciple?

Q: What does it mean to deny self and take up Jesus’ cross?

Q: Is this something you have done?

Luke 14:25-33

Note: Although he was happy to have so many there, Jesus is not all that impressed with crowds. He is looking for disciples.

Q: What does Jesus mean in v. 26?

Q: Who are you closest to? What does this passage mean in practice? (that your commitment to Jesus comes WAY before your commitment to your wife, father, boyfriend, sister)

Note: We already covered v. 27

Q: What is Jesus’ point in v. 28-30.

Q: Are you ready to count this cost?

Q: What is Jesus’ point in v. 31-32 (discipleship involved unconditional surrender)

Q: (from v. 33) What will be the hardest thing for you to give up in order to be a disciple of Jesus? In what sense will you need to “give it up?”

Note: I skip John 12:24-26

Matthew 28:18-20

Now, you have a good sense of what Jesus is asking all of us to do when he says to “go, make disciples.”

Q: Does the order matter here? (in other words, first become a disciple, then be baptized, then be taught to fully obey)

Assignment: Read the Book of John.

Discussion group:

Is there an aspect of what is contained in the discipleship study that you feel particularly challenged by?

Do you feel you could lead this study? Why or why not?