

Middle School Sunday School Lessons by



Year 3: Session 6 – Jesus and his disciples

Class 18: Luke 10:1-11; 17-18 – The disciples do ministry like Jesus

CONCEPTS that will be covered in the lesson

- Review what it meant to be a disciple in 1st century Israel – including that the disciple was to do what their teacher did.
- Review main teaching points from last two classes: Jesus taught the disciples to pray and to put Jesus first.
- Highlight how the disciples, by following Jesus' teachings (prayer and putting Jesus/God first), were able to do what Jesus did and because of it, were really good representatives of Jesus.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Movie clip (from rfour.org)
- TV and equipment needed to play movie clip

THE LESSON

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING QUESTION

- For the opening question for today's class, one of the teachers will ask the question and then to give you some time to think of an answer; the teacher asking the question will answer first.
- Once the teacher answers the question, we'll go around the circle.
- When it's your turn, start with your name and then answer the question to the best of your ability.
- **Here's this week's question:** *What is something you have been practicing for awhile and you feel like you are pretty good at?*

TELL

- So in our two previous classes, we've talked about Jesus and his disciples
- One of the things that we've discussed is how Jesus was not the only teacher in his time. There were many teachers in his time and place.
- And, most of those teachers had disciples – in the Gospel of John, we learn that even John the Baptist had disciples.

- The idea of being a disciple to any of the teachers at that time was that you would learn from your teacher (or “rabbi”) by following the teacher, listening to the teacher, asking the teacher questions and doing what the teacher did.
- It was more like an apprenticeship than school
- Thinking of Jesus as a teacher, one of the things to think about is “What did Jesus teach his disciples?” And that’s what we’ll be talking about in this session.
- In our first class, we looked at how Jesus taught his disciples about prayer.
- Last class we talked about how Jesus taught his disciples to put him first (and by doing so, would be putting God first since Jesus is/was putting God first in his life).
- There were other things that Jesus taught: For instance that the kingdom of God is at hand and he used parables to help explain what the kingdom of God would look like. But prayer and putting God first in one’s life were two of his most important teachings.
- In today’s story, we’re going to look at what happens for the disciples when they practice prayer and practice putting God first...

TRANSITION TO VIDEO CLIP

- But first, we’re going to watch a video clip from the Karate Kid (the remake).
- In it, Dre, played by Jaden Smith, has to learn Kung Fu because he’s going to be in a tournament.
- *(if you’re wondering why “the karate kid” is learning “kung fu” I have no idea...Hollywood)*
- The gardener, Mr. Han, played by Jackie Chan, has agreed to teach Dre kung fu.
- Let’s see how that teaching goes for them.
- (Note: The clip is about twice as long as most of the clips we watch – so sit back and enjoy the film!)

WATCH CLIP

ASK *(answers are in parenthesis)*

- So at the beginning of the clip, before his training had started, what did Dre want Mr. Han to know? (that he was a pretty good fighter)
- And did Mr. Han use any of what Dre knew? (No)
- At a very literal level what DID Mr. Han teach Dre? (how to pick up his coat, put on his coat, take his coat off, and then hang it up)
- Did this seem like a strange thing for Mr. Han to be teaching Dre? (Yes)
- Did Dre seem to like it? (No)
- Did Dre understand it? (No)
- Did Dre keep doing what he was supposed to? (Mostly yes, though not happily)
- So Dre listened to his teacher and it didn’t make sense to him, but because he listened, what happened? What did all that practice turn into? (Something different/better than what Dre thought he was doing)
- At the end of the clip when all that practice is working out for Dre, did it seem like he could even believe it? (his verbal responses and facial expressions suggest that he couldn’t believe what was happening)
- So do you think Dre is ready for his competition? (No, not at all)

- But, is he motivated to keep learning? (Yes, at the end of the clip, he's practicing with his jacket as he's leaving the courtyard)

TRANSITION TO SCRIPTURE READING

- The video clip helps to very much capture what it means to follow Jesus and be a disciple of Jesus (except for the fighting stuff).
- There's a lot of practice involved and sometimes it seems like no progress is being made – the disciples just always seem to be getting things wrong.
- But in today's scripture reading, they have a moment like we saw Dre have at the end the video clip: They get a glimpse of what the result is of all their repetitive practices and following Jesus.

READ Luke 10:1-11; 17-18 *(recommend class reads it out loud; one person per verse)*

1 After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. **2** He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. **3** Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. **4** Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. **5** Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" **6** And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. **7** Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. **8** Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; **9** cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." **10** But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, **11** "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near."

17 The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" **18** He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning.

ASK *(answers are in parenthesis)*

- So what does Jesus tell the disciples to do? (all sorts of things – carry very little stuff [vv 4 – to avoid robbery], what to say to people [vv 5], where to stay [vv7], what to do in the towns [vv8&9 – teach and heal], and what to do when the people reject them [vv10 and 11])
- And in verse 17 – what was the experience for the disciples? (It worked! Even the demons submitted to them)
- Does it sound like the disciples are surprised? (Yes – just like Dre was surprised)
- So it seems like the practicing of what Jesus said for them to do worked out, right?

TELL

- RE: the demons – a number of things that we have medical names for, things like grand mal seizures and schizophrenia and even simple things like high fevers – the people in Jesus' time did not have specific names for. So when your body/mind was taken over by these types of things, the name the name they would use was "demons."
- Jesus sounds a little bit crazy (and excited) in verse 18. Just to explain what Jesus is talking about: "Heaven" is not an afterlife place for him. "Heaven" simply means up. And "up" means "in power"; like a hierarchy. And then Satan, as we discussed in our last class, is described as "having your mind on human things instead of divine things." So

what Jesus is saying, here, is that the frame of mind that seems to rule the world, the frame of mind that only focuses on human things, lost some of its power because the disciples were out in the world, practicing what Jesus taught them – keeping their minds on divine things instead of human things (this is from the previous lesson).

- What we see here with the disciples doing what Jesus had been doing is very similar to the movie clip that we watched: The disciples are experiencing the fruits of their hard work and practice.
- They aren't ready to become the teacher, yet, but this moment helps them to know that they are well on their way. They just need to keep with it.
- So one question that might come to mind is "Why do the disciples have to practice and learn what Jesus is teaching with such dedication? Why can't they just hang out with Jesus on the weekends or something?"
- The answer to this question has to do with how the disciples, once they learn what Jesus is teaching, become an extension of Jesus.
- So the people in the towns and villages that the disciples interact with may never meet Jesus, but if the disciples are doing the same things as Jesus, then it is as if Jesus, himself, is interacting with the people of the village.
- BUT – and this is very important -- if the disciples aren't as well practiced as Jesus then the people who are interacting with the disciple (and not Jesus) will be less impressed by this Jesus guy if his disciples aren't very good. If the disciples are kind of lame and useless, then why pay attention to what this disciple is saying about his somewhat lame teacher guy, Jesus.
- Just like if Dre fights poorly – then no one would want his teacher to be their teacher. But if Dre fights well, then other students will probably want to train with Mr. Han, too.

TRANSITION TO ACTIVITY

- To help us think some more about this concept of the disciples being extensions of Jesus, let's do the following activity.

EXPLAIN "Identify the Leader" ACTIVITY

- One person is "IT" and must leave the room.
- The rest of the class then sits in a circle and chooses one person to be their leader.
- Once the leader is chosen, the rest of the circle must imitate as closely as possible everything that the leader does: How the leader sits, how arms are crossed, how legs are arranged, etc. EVERYTHING must be copied.
- Also, you don't want the whole group to stare at the leader, so you might want to set up a daisy chain where everyone is watching someone else – so if the leader moves, then the rest of the group can move too.
- Then the person who is "IT" is called back into the room and must observe the class and try to figure out who the leader is.
- Note that the leader needs to do things, can't just sit still and do nothing.
- But at the same time, the leader doesn't want to be "discovered" -- so the leader might want to make slow movements so that the rest of the group can keep up.
- The "IT" person gets three guesses to figure out who the leader is.
- Do it two or three times, time permitting.

DO “Identify the Leader” ACTIVITY

ASK/TELL

- Did we get better at being leaders and followers? (yes)
- And as we got better at being leaders and followers, was it more difficult for the “IT” person to tell who the leader was? (hopefully -- yes!)
- So that’s how it’s supposed to work with Jesus and his disciples as well. There should be very little difference between them and him.
- Because then, the followers/disciples are more clearly conveying who Jesus is to people who don’t know Jesus.
- And as we see in today’s story and lesson, as the disciples practice practice practice what Jesus teaches and does, then it makes the difference between them and Jesus less noticeable.
- If we choose to be disciples of Jesus, this is an aspect of the choice that we are making: We are choosing to be an extension of Jesus. To represent Jesus.
- The exciting thing we see in today’s story is that it is very much possible.

CLOSING PRAYER