



Disciples and Dust

3rd Confirmation Class Lesson

Supplies Needed: Notebooks; Handout; TV; DVD player; Nooma video entitled, "Dust" by Rob Bell. Currently available on Amazon.com.

EXPLAIN OPENING Activity

- One of us will read you a question that will always starts with "Would you rather"
- And then we'll give you two choices
- Then, you HAVE TO choose one option over the other.
For example, I might ask you "Would you rather eat peanut butter or jelly?"
- And then you might all start talking at the same time about why one choice is better than the other.
- Then I'll say "Wait, wait. Those who would rather eat peanut butter, raise your hand."
- And then I'll ask one or two of you to tell the class why you'd rather eat peanut butter.
- Then I'll ask one you who didn't raise your hand, why you'd rather eat jelly.
- Any questions?
- Ok, here we go!

DO Opening Activity

(Note: Ask 10 questions at most – I recommend 5 to 7. Then go to the wrap-up at the bottom of this section and transition to the Bible study. If there's extra time at the end of class, feel free to ask more of these questions OR encourage the students to think of their own questions. Here are some questions to ask – feel free to add your own):

- Would you rather be able to fly or breathe underwater?
- Would you rather drink old milk or old coffee?
- Would you rather not brush your teeth for a week or not bathe for a week?
- Would you rather breathe fire, or have 3 million dollars?
- Would you rather cut a 1/8 of an acre of grass with your teeth, or lick up a rain puddle 6ft by 6ft?
- Would you rather eat a lime or a lemon?
- Live without music or live without T.V.?
- Eat a bar of soap or drink a bottle of dishwashing liquid?
- Have a beautiful house and ugly car or an ugly house and beautiful car?
- Have 3 eyes or webbed feet?
- Always have to say everything on your mind or never speak again?
- End hunger or hatred?
- Always lose or never play?
- Know it all or have it all?
- Give bad advice or take bad advice?
- Have sand in your shorts or water in your ear?
- Forget who you were or who everyone else was?
- Have one wish granted today or three wishes granted in 10 years?

- Be the sand castle or the wave?
- Have half days everyday or no homework forever?
- Be a deep sea diver or an astronaut?
- Run a mile or give a speech?
- Have a pie-eating contest or a wheelbarrow race?
- Not be able to talk or hear for one day?
- Wear a school uniform or last year's Halloween costume?
- Be saved by Superman or meet Winnie the Pooh?
- Have a kangaroo or koala bear as your pet?
- Pick your own nose or someone else's?
- Be a tree or live in a tree?

TELL

- Thank you for participating in this activity.
- By participating in it, you were making choices.
- And in making those choices you were deciding what was more important and what was less important.
- You were putting a value on the things you were being asked decide.
- This is always something good to practice, even if we're being silly. Let's pray.

OPENING PRAYER

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK REVIEW

The challenge for last week was to find a topic or subject and then name/describe at least two different perspectives (angles) of it. What subject did you pick and what perspectives did you see?

Review of last two weeks

- What are the groups surrounding Jesus? (Crowd, Disciples, Pharisees).
- Last week we talked about perspective and two things that help determine perspective. Do you remember what those two things were? (location and what we focus on)
- Perspective strongly influences what we believe. The Crowd, disciples and Pharisees are representative of 3 different perspectives on Jesus.

TELL

- Today, we're going to look more closely at the location aspect of the disciples' perspective of Jesus.
- We're going to talk a little bit about what it means to be a disciple.
- To do this, we'll start where the disciples started: With how they were called.

READ Luke 5:1-11.

1 One day Jesus was standing by the Sea of Galilee. The people crowded around him and listened to the word of God. 2 Jesus saw two boats at the edge of the water. They had been left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into the boat that belonged to Simon Peter. Jesus asked Peter to go out a little way from shore. Then Jesus sat down in the boat and taught the people. 4 When he

finished speaking, he turned to Simon. Jesus said, "Go out into deep water. Let the nets down so you can catch some fish." **5** Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." **6** When they had done so, they caught a large number of fish. There were so many that their nets began to break. **7** So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. **8** When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees. "Go away from me, Lord!" he said. "I am a sinful man!" **9** He and everyone with him were amazed at the number of fish they had caught. **10** So were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who worked with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on you will catch people." **11** So they pulled their boats up on shore. Then they left everything and followed him.

ASK *(reassure the class that these are not trick questions, no matter how easy they may seem – these questions are to establish what actually happened in the story)*

- In verse 1, what do the people do? (crowd around Jesus)
- In verse 2, what are the fishermen doing? (washing their nets...NOT crowding Jesus)
- In verse 3, why do you think Simon Peter let Jesus be in his boat?
- In verse 5, why do you think Simon Peter does as Jesus says?
- In verse 8, how is Peter's response different than the crowd's response to Jesus in verse one?
- In verse 11, are you surprised by Peter, James and John's decision to leave everything and follow Jesus? Why/Why not?
- In verse 11, what do you think Jesus means when he says, "Follow me"? How is such a command lived out by the disciples?

SNACK

TELL

- We're going to watch a video called, "Dust" that's part of a video series called "Nooma."
- It's about 15 minutes long.
- The man speaking in it is a man named Rob Bell who was the senior pastor of a large church in Grand Rapids, MI called Mars Hill.
- He'll be talking about what it meant to be a disciple in the time when Jesus was alive.
- Write down any questions/ideas that come to mind as you watch.

WATCH VIDEO

ASK

- Any immediate thoughts or comments?
- Was Jesus the only person with disciples? (No)
- Are you surprised to learn that the disciples were close to you in age?
- According to what Bell is telling us, what was the ideal location/perspective of a disciple? (to be as close as possible to the rabbi)
- And what did a disciple try to do? (everything that his/her rabbi did).

- What then would constitute as a successful disciple? (someone who copied his/her rabbi enough that the rabbi thought s/he could graduate to being their own rabbi)

ASK/TELL

- So Bell tells us that being a Rabbi (which means teacher) was a pretty big deal.
- Rabbis were sort of how we think of celebrities – they had a lofty position in society.
- This means that when Jesus asked Peter, James and John to follow him, that was considered a huge honor for them.
- For a similar thing to happen today, it'd be like LeBron James, Derek Jeter, Tom Brady, Tiger Woods [or pick another popular sports player] said to you, "Follow me and I'll show you how to play like I do." If offered such a chance, would you take it?
- Or if a popular guitarist/singer – insert name here – said "Follow me and I'll show you how to sing/play like I do." Would you do it? Would you leave everything and follow?
- I mean let's say RIGHT THIS MINUTE, _____ walked through those doors and said, "C'mon, follow me." Wouldn't you at least be tempted?
- That's how it was for the original disciples.
- In the video, Rob Bell was saying that when a rabbi said "Follow me," what the rabbi meant was, "You have what it takes to be like me."
- Does it feel like an honor to know that Jesus is asking you and me and everyone else, to follow him? Does it feel watered down if everyone is invited?
- Jesus says to us, "Follow me." Which means Jesus is saying he thinks we ... YOU...have what it takes to be just like Jesus.
- Do you think you have what it takes to walk on water? To heal the sick? To go to the cross? To feed thousands with a few loafs of bread?
- Why? Why not?

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

"May you be covered in your rabbi's dust." So what or who are you following so closely that you are covered in it/his/her dust? Ways to help you think about this: On what do you spend the majority of your time? On what do you spend the majority of your FREE time? On what do you spend the majority of your money? If you had more time/more money, what would you LIKE to spend it on? Pay attention to this throughout the week. We'll talk about it next week.

Closing Prayer