



FOLLOW JESUS - 99 and 1

CONNECT

- Who is your best friend outside of your family? How did you meet them and become friends?
- Do you like meeting strangers and getting to know new people? Why or why not?
- Recall a time when you went out of your way to help someone. What happened?

THOUGHT

Jesus loved you so much he came to earth to die on the cross for you. He came so that you could know God's love and goodness, live a life that honors him and fulfills you, and enjoy his favor forever. We are all born with a gaping chasm between us and God that only perfection could bridge. God bridged that chasm by sending Jesus to us. We cross that bridge by trusting Jesus to save us. This is good news, the Gospel. But until we trust Jesus, we are like a son or daughter who has been lost. In any family, although all the children may be loved equally, it is the one child who is lost who is the parent's concern, not the children who are safe and sound at home. Jesus came to seek out and save God's lost children. As we follow him, we are to do the same. In this lesson, we will discuss how to do that effectively.

WORD

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 19:10 (NIV)

⁴Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

Luke 15:4-7 (NIV)

1. Pray Continually

³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should."

Colossians 4:3-4 (NIV)

As Paul went to share the Gospel with others he asked for prayer for an opportunity (open door) to share the Gospel and the ability to share it clearly, in spite of opposition. In Luke 10:2, Jesus told us to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into his harvest field. Who is the Lord of the harvest and where is the harvest field? Why is prayer important before, during, and after sharing the gospel?

2. Engage

¹Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” **Luke 15:1-2 (NIV)**

Jesus was known as a “friend of sinners,” yet he was without sin. He strategically engaged the lost for the purpose of leading them back to God. He extended love, mercy, and grace to those who did not deserve it. Why do you think Paul said he “became all things to all people” to save some (1 Corinthians 9:22)? How can you purposefully reach out to, meet, and engage those who don't know Jesus yet? What might it look like in your life to “become all things to all people” in order to save some?

3. Share Boldly

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” **1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)**

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” **Romans 1:16 (NIV)**

We can pray for the lost, befriend and serve them, and invite them to a church service, but the most important thing we can do for them is to share the gospel. We should give them an answer for what we believe. What does it mean to “always be prepared?” How can you be prepared? How can you boldly share the Gospel as Jesus did and commands us to do (Acts 1:8)?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Name three or more friends, family, co-workers, or neighbors who don't know Jesus yet. What opportunities will there be for you to engage with them and share the gospel this week?
- Do you know how to share the gospel? What can you do this week to develop your confidence in telling others about Jesus?
- How has God changed your life? How would you share that with someone else?

PRAYER

- Thank God for Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and for the salvation that we have received.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to be His witness and for signs and wonders to accompany you as you share the gospel. Pray for boldness, wisdom, and clarity.
- Pray for the three or more friends you know who do not know the gospel yet and ask God for their salvation and an opportunity to share the gospel with them.

NOTES
