

Lesson 1: Becoming Christ's follower

Aims for each learner:

- To consider if he or she is Christ's follower or not.
- If not yet Christ's follower, to know how to become one.
- Memorize Matthew 11:28.

Cultural clues:

- Starting points with BMBs
- New believers and counting the cost

Prepare: Optional video clip for Q.15-18.

Opening

Pray for today's lesson.

Lesson 1 home study review:

Question 1: Practise saying together the memory verse (Matt 11:28). Reading it, how do you feel?

Question 2: Ask what the learner(s) wrote in their book.

They can each answer in turn. Or they can swap books and check each other's answers.

Introduce today's topic: Today we learn how Jesus Christ called Simon Peter to become his follower, and how we too can become Christ's followers.

Explain that there isn't enough time to discuss every question. But encourage people to ask about any question you skip if they didn't understand it, and also to raise other questions they have as you go along.

Discussion

Introduction (and Questions 1-2)

Introduction:

Ask two people to read the two men's views of the purpose of life. Ask the teacher's questions in the bubble.

- What is the purpose of your life?
Share your own purpose last.



Becoming Jesus' follower (Questions 3-4)

Question 3: Read together the passage in the box. Ask:



- One person re-tell the event in your own words.
- Imagine you are Simon. What different feelings do you have when you see Jesus do this miracle?
- What four steps did Simon Peter take to become Jesus' follower?

The others can fill any gaps.

Probably: Amazed at his power. Sinful in his presence. Privileged to be called.

- Turn away from sin.
- Understand the cost.
- Entrust yourself to Christ.
- Join Christ's community.

First step: Turn away from sin (Questions 5-11)

Questions 8-10: Read the first paragraph of question 8 and look at supplement 2 (page 151).

- Ask two people to read the words of Imran and Shafiq. Which one will Jesus wash clean? Why?
- Let's each think about ourselves. Are we more like Imran or Shafiq?
- What is the difference between mere regret and real repentance?
- If Shafiq has truly repented, how will we know?

If there is time, you could ask learners to explain supplement 2 to each other.

Shafiq, because he knows he needs Jesus.

Personal responses.

See q.9. Repentance is going in a new direction, a change of lifestyle.

His lifestyle will change.

Second step: Understand the cost (Questions 12-14)

Question 12:

- How do you think Simon felt as he considered the cost of following Jesus?
- Have you faced a similar choice in your own life? Have you made a decision yet?

If the learners trust each other, they may say whether they have already received Christ or are still considering the cost.

Question 13-14: Read Jesus' words in the box.

- In your opinion, what is the meaning of this story?
- What answers did you write for question 13?
- Is it worth this high cost to follow Jesus?
- What answer did you write for question 14?

Following Christ may cost a lot, but he is worth it. He is more precious than the finest pearl! It is worth it to follow him.

He paid an even greater price.

Third step: Entrust yourself to Christ (Questions 15-18)

Play the Trust Game: *This activity could be good for some ages and types of people, but not all. Decide if it is appropriate for your learners. Or watch a youtube clip about Charles Blondin, and adapt the questions.*



- Put group members into pairs of similar height and weight, and of the same gender. One person is the Faller and one the Catcher. The Faller should stand upright with their feet together, and facing away from the Catcher. The Catcher should have one leg in front of the other, arms extended, ready to catch the Faller.
- The Faller should ask if the Catcher is fully ready, and then start to fall backwards, keeping their body stiff. The Catcher should catch them safely before they fall too far!
- Swap Catchers and Fallers.

Trusting the catcher:

- How did it feel to completely entrust yourself to the Catcher?
- Entrusting ourselves to Jesus Christ is a bit like entrusting ourselves to the Catcher. It can feel scary at first, but when we find he catches us every time, we learn to trust him more.

Question 16: Read the three examples given. *Tired child, patient and passenger.*

- Why do these three people trust the other? *Because they think the other person is trustworthy.*
- Can we trust Jesus in the same way? *Yes, he is more trustworthy than any human.*
- What do we trust him to do for us? *E.g. to forgive our sins, come into our lives, give us power to do good, protect and guide us, bring us safely to heaven.*
- Remember how you felt during the 'falling' activity. Can you trust Jesus in this same way in every area of your life? *Personal responses.*

Fourth step: Join Christ's community (Questions 19-20)

Question 20: Read the teacher's words in the speech bubble.

- Which three kinds of people does the teacher describe?
- Which of these people are you?



Those who are already Christ's followers, those who are ready to become followers, those who want more time to think about it. You decide if it is better for the learner(s) to speak now or just to think about it quietly.

Conclusion

Obeying today's teaching: What difference will today's lesson make for you? **Read together the practical task.**

- Do you have a friend you could do this task with?
- Complete Lesson 2 study before next week.

Pray together:

Thank God that we can know him personally in Jesus Christ.