

STW LESSONS

Lesson 2

Our Response: Leaving Everything to Follow Christ, the Cost of Discipleship



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Our Response: Leaving Everything to Follow Christ, the Cost of Discipleship

Objectives

- To understand what our response to God's goodness should be
- To understand the relationship between faith and works
- To recognize which areas of our life need to be surrendered to God

Materials

- Paper and/or thank-you notes
- Pens and pencils
- Envelopes
- Bibles

■ Starting the Journey [15 min.]

Divide into groups and ask them to write their own fairy tales. Each must include at least one hero, someone in need of rescuing, the heroic deed, and what happens after the rescue.

After giving them a few minutes to work, regroup, and share the stories.

Ask: *In each story, what, if anything, did the hero have to sacrifice in order to save the day?*



Ask: *How did the rescued respond to the hero? Did the hero get any reward? If not, what reward should they have gotten?*

■ **Gaining Speed [10 min.]**

Say: *Think again of the people in your life who have had a major impact on you and those who are heroes in your life. If you could do anything for them and money was no object, what would you do? How would you like to repay them?*

Consider taking some time now to have students in your group write one thank-you note to someone who has been a hero to them. (Have pencils, paper, and envelopes available.)

■ **Down the Straightaway [15 minutes]**

Say: *Last week, we reviewed what Christ has done in our lives and began to pray for those who have not heard about his salvation. This week, we will examine what our own lives should look like now that we have been rescued and how we can live for God.*

First of all, we must remember that living for Christ is not a way to gain our salvation. Nothing we do or do not do will make God love us more or less. Our lives are a response to what we have been given. Heroes are often rewarded with far more than what they expected by those they have rescued. For instance, after slaying the dragon, the hero is rewarded with the princess's hand in marriage and half of the kingdom.

Read: Romans 3:21–24, 28.

Ask: *How do these verses explain our salvation? (justified by faith, apart from the law)*

Ask: *If our salvation does not depend on what we do, does this mean we can live however we choose and what we do does not matter?*

Read: Romans 6:15–18 (slaves to sin)

Ask: *Why do these verses say that our lives should change? (to avoid slavery to sin)*

Say: *Christian author and well-known national speaker Becky Tirabassi puts it this way in her book Sacred Obsession: “What you chase after, you become.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?*

Ask: *So, what role does obedience play in our relationship with Christ?*



Read: James 2:14–26. Pay particular attention to verse 22 (faith made complete by what he did).

Say: *Faith and deeds work hand-in-hand, one complementing the other.*

Ask: *Why does Jesus say we should follow his word?*

Read: John 14:23 (to show our love and so that God will be able to make a home with us).

Say: *Fortunately, God did not leave us to figure this life out on our own.*

Read: the following scriptures to see what help and provision he has promised us.

- John 14:16–20, 25–27 (the Holy Spirit, counselor, teacher, peace)
- Acts 1:8 (they would receive power to be witnesses)

Ask: *What did Jesus promise his disciples before he left?*

Ask: *God has promised us the Holy Spirit, but we have also been given the Bible. What role does the Bible play in this life?*

Read: 2 Timothy 3:14–17 (equips us for every good work, makes us wise).

Say: *God has called us to a new life and equipped us with the Holy Spirit and Scripture.*

Read: the following scriptures and answer this question: *So what characterizes this new life?*

- Matthew 25:31–46 (service)
- Luke 14:25–33 (must leave family, give up everything, carry cross)
- John 13:34–35 (how we love one another)
- Acts 2:42–47 (sharing, giving, fellowship, joy)

Ask: *What stands out to you from the previous verses about what life is like with Christ? Is there a recurring theme? (sacrifice)*

■ **Heading for the Checkered Flag [10 minutes]**

Look again at Luke 14:25–33.

Say: *Jesus says we must leave everything. Do you read this literally? Should we all live a monastic life of poverty, or is Jesus saying something else? If so, what?*



Read: Matthew 6:19–24 for more guidance.

Ask: *How do these verses influence your understanding of the instructions in Luke? (a matter of focus)*

Say: *Jesus is directing our focus to the life to come and encouraging us to not hold too tightly to the things of this world. So what do you think it means to store up treasures in heaven? What does that look like in your daily life?*

Discuss practical ways to do this. Challenge them to be specific in their answers.

■ **Crossing the Finish Line [10 minutes]**

Say: *Since our focus is to be on the next life and not life here, we must hold what we have loosely, including our time, plans, possessions, etc. Are there any areas of your life where you have lost sight of this and are storing up treasure here rather than in heaven? Spend some time in silence, allowing them to examine their lives.*

After a few minutes, instruct each student to find a partner to share an area where they need to let go a little, and then ask each pair to spend time praying together that God would help them to release anything they are holding back from him.

Close in prayer, reminding them to remember those they began praying for last week who do not have a relationship with God yet.

