

Week 1 Study Sheet

Known For Sharing Hope

Consider

Many people write God off because they believe God wrote them off. The same thing can be said of the Church. As a tax collector during the time of Jesus, Zacchaeus knew what it felt like to be written off. Known as the Scrooge of his day, locals scoffed at him. As a wealthy person, it would have been easy for Zacchaeus to write off those around him in return. Instead, the hope of Jesus changed Zacchaeus and what he was known for. As a follower of Jesus, what do you want to be known for?

Discover

Read Luke 19:1-10

- What are the identifying features of Zacchaeus? (v. 1-4)
- How does Jesus share hope with Zacchaeus? (v. 5)
- · How does Jesus create common ground with Zacchaeus?
- What was the crowd known for in this story and how does that relate to our actions today? (v. 7)
- What does Zacchaeus want the Lord to know him for and how does this contrast from the reputation he had previously? (v. 8)
- How did Jesus live out his mission to "seek and to save what is lost"? (v. 10)
- · How can we adopt this same mission today?

Read Matthew 4:18-22

- What did Jesus' invitation to "follow me" mean for these humble fishermen?
- Is our call and response to follow Jesus similar to theirs?
- · What does it mean to be "fishers of men?"
- How does "fishing for men" relate to being known for sharing hope?
- Where has God placed you and what opportunities do you have to fish for men?

Pray

Pray an "include me" prayer. Include me Jesus, in your mission to redeem all that is broken. Include me Jesus, in your mission to seek and save the lost. Include me Jesus, in bringing your kingdom here on earth as it is in Heaven.

Practice

Start every day this week praying the "include me" prayer. Listen and look for the ways God is leading you to share the hope of Jesus where you live, work, learn, and play.

Engage

Cultivate your relationship with God by meditating on his Word and committing it to memory each week.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. Matthew 4:19-20 NIV



Week 2 Study Sheet

Known For Following Jesus Moment by Moment

Consider

Rick Warren states, "humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less." When we nurture our relationship with God through the spiritual practices of prayer, fasting, meditation, Scripture memory, and Bible study we become more consumed with the goodness of God and less concerned about our ourselves. As we think of ourselves less, we begin to see how we can live our lives for the sake of others. Have you laid aside the question of what the church can do **for** you, and considered what it can do **through** you? As a member of the Body of Christ, what do you want the church to be known for?

Discover

Read John 15:1-17

- How are God and Jesus represented in this metaphor? (v. 1)
- Why is abiding or remaining in Jesus vital for us to bear fruit? (v. 1-4)
- What will be produced in our lives if we remain connected to Jesus? (v. 5, See Galatians 5:22-26)
- How does this metaphor help us understand the value of spiritual practices?
- What does "bearing much fruit" accomplish for God's kingdom? (v. 8)
- Has another laid down their life for you?
- How might God be calling you to lay down your life for another?
- Why is the command to love one another an appropriate conclusion to this parable?

Read 1 Peter 4:7-11

- What instruction does Peter provide about the spiritual practice of prayer? (v. 7)
- What fruit of the Spirit results from the spiritual practice of prayer? (v. 8)
- How does love help us practice hospitality? (v. 8-9)
- How do spiritual practices, such as prayer, impact our ability to faithfully serve others?
- What is the ultimate benefit of serving through God's strength? (v. 11)

Pray

Ask God to deepen your relationship with him so that you would know and love him more with each passing day. Seek God's guidance on how you can love and serve others through the power of his Spirit.

Practice

Find your place of service in the local church. As followers of Jesus, we are committed to nurturing our love for God and others. We invite you to express love for others daily through serving, and to find your place of service through Oak Hills Church. Visit the OHC website (oakhillschurch.com/serve) or stop by Connection Central in-person to find ways to serve through the ministries of OHC.

Engage

Cultivate your relationship with God by meditating on his Word and committing it to memory each week.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 NIV



Week 3 Study Sheet

Known For Making Disciples

Consider

On March 19, 2018, the last male northern white rhinoceros died. With his death, a whole subspecies of rhinoceros will now go extinct. This news story should be a reminder to the church that Christianity is just one generation from extinction. How we disciple the next generation should always be a focus for the church. In <u>Isaiah 39</u>, King Hezekiah writes off the next generation, concerned only about the peace and security in his lifetime. However, the generation that Hezekiah dismisses is the generation that Isaiah pinned these words to, "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins." (Isaiah 40:1-2 NIV) As a disciple maker, what do you want to be known for? Will you write off the next generation, or disciple them?

Discover

Read Psalm 78:1-8

- How is the next generation to learn of the commands and deeds of God? (v. 1-4)
- Jesus often used parables to teach, how can we do the same to disciple the next generation?
- What personal stories of trusting in God can you share with the next generation?
- According to this passage, what is the result when faithful older generations proclaim the goodness of God?
 (v. 7)

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9

- In the Hebrew text, the word for "hear" (v. 4) also means to listen and obey. What do listening and obeying God look like in this passage?
- How can we impress the love of God on our hearts, and the hearts of the next generation? (v. 7-9)
- What modern resources can we use to remind us of God's love and empower the next generation with these instructions?
- How do we prioritize sharing God's love with others, and keep everything else in life from occupying our time, attention, and devotion?

Pray

Deuteronomy 6 is often referred to as the Shema. In Judaism it was used daily by families in their morning and evening prayer time. Open your Bible to <u>Deuteronomy 6:4-9</u> and read the passage out loud as your prayer.

Practice

Disciple the next generation to know the goodness of God. Consider serving with Bibleland Kids, Student Ministry, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Young Life, or volunteer at a school close to where you live.

Engage

Cultivate your relationship with God by meditating on his Word and committing it to memory each week.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20



Week 4 Study Sheet

Known For Biblical Community

Consider

We know that spiritual transformation happens best in the context of biblical community. That's why we encourage everyone to join a community where they can be known, loved, cared for, encouraged, and challenged to follow Jesus. A biblical community is an intentional gathering where followers of Jesus develop authentic relationships, learn from the Scriptures, and provide mutual encouragement, accountability, and care to one another. Biblical community can take the form of a small group, equipping class, or mentoring relationship. These relationships enable us to be a community of disciples who make disciples by guiding all people to follow Jesus moment by moment.

Discover

Read Romans 12:3-16

- How does this passage describe the relationships we experience in biblical community?
- · What spiritual gifts has God given you?
- · How can you use your gifts in biblical community?
- · What are some characteristics of a healthy biblical community?

Read Acts 2:42-47

- What were the primary commitments of the early church? (v. 42)
- What outcomes did they experience through community? (v. 43-47)
- How does your personal experience in community compare to the community described in this passage?
- What personal steps can you take to more authentically reflect and experience biblical community as described in Acts 2?

Pray

Ask God to reveal your spiritual gifts to you. Seek him for wisdom as you use your gifts within your biblical community. If you do not have a biblical community, ask God to guide you in your pursuit of biblical community that you might use your gifts to serve others and bring him glory.

Practice

Deepen your relationships within a biblical community. Pray about starting your own biblical community where you live, work, learn or play. Consider joining a small group or attending an on-campus, Sunday morning Adult Bible Community group.

Engage

Cultivate your relationship with God by meditating on his Word and committing it to memory each week. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2 NIV