

LIKE CHRIST

DATE	TOPIC	TEXT
10-2	1. Self-Denial	Luke 9:23
10-9	2. Loving	1 John 3:16-18
10-16	3. Humility	Philippians 2:5
10-23	4. Serving	John 13:15
10-30	5. Self-Control	Titus 2:11-14
11-6	6. Forgiving	Colossians 3:13
11-13	7. Praying	Luke 11:1
11-20	8. Suffering	1 Peter 2:21
11-27	9. Obeying	1 John 2:1-6
12-4	10. Thinking	Colossians 3:2
12-11	11. Hoping	John 12:24-26
12-18	Teacher Prep Night	
12-25	Singing Night	

1

SELF-DENIAL (LUKE 9:23)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Immediately after Peter's declaration that Jesus is the Christ, Jesus responds by prophesying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised" (Luke 9:22). Put yourself in the disciples' sandals. How would you respond to Jesus' words?
2. Jesus has even more shocking news. Not only will he go to a cross, but also his followers. He said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). How is the Christian experience like a daily cross?
3. Complete the chart below to outline the reversals in Jesus' warning (Luke 9:24-26).

Choice	Result
Save His Life	
Lose His Life for My Sake	
Gain Whole World	
Ashamed of Jesus	

4. The first thing a disciple must do to follow Christ is "deny himself" (9:23). From the rest of this passage, how would you define "self-denial" and what would that look like in a Christian's daily walk?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. John's definition of love (1 John 3:16) recalls Jesus words on his last night, saying, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). What do these verses show us about what love really is?

2. John illustrates the unloving heart. How do each of these steps contribute to
 - a. Has the world's goods.

 - b. Sees his brother in need.

 - c. Closes his heart against him.

3. Write the alternate ending to the story. What should a Christian do to change these three steps?
 - a. Has the world's goods.

 - b. Sees his brother in need.

 - c. Closes his heart against him.

4. Love can't just be something we think about or talk about (1 John 3:18). How can we bridge the gap between good intentions and good deeds?

3

HUMILITY (PHILIPPIANS 2:5)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. There are a lot of misconceptions about humility. How does Paul define what humility is and what it is not (Philippians 2:3-4)?
2. Jesus is our example in humility (Philippians 2:5-8). What specifically did Jesus do that proved his humility?
3. It's easy to conceive that the result of humility is living a dejected life, mistreated by everyone, but that is not Jesus' story. Paul argues, "Therefore," meaning everything to follow is a result of the humility previously described. God exalts and glorifies Jesus (Philippians 2:9-11). Can a Christian expect a similar response from God? Explain your answer.
4. Paul's concern is for the result of humility on the church collectively (Philippians 2:1-2). If everyone had this kind of humility, what benefits would that had to this church?

What problems would it avoid?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Answer the following questions about the last five acts of service you performed.
 - a. Did you know the person you served well?
 - b. Did the act of service make you uncomfortable?
 - c. Can you reasonably expect your kindness to be repaid?
2. Imagine Jesus was in the room, he knelt in front of you and began washing your feet (John 13:1-5). What thoughts would be going through your mind?
3. The most shocking part of Jesus' act is that he washed the feet of Judas, knowing what Judas was about to do (13:2-5, 10-11). Think of the last person who harmed you. Would you want to wash their feet?
4. Jesus answers the question the apostles haven't asked yet (John 13:12-14). What social rule did Jesus just break?
5. Jesus expects that Christians will follow his example (13:14-15). Complete the following sentence: If I am to follow Jesus' example of service, I must...
6. The hardest part about aspiring to serve is finding the right opportunity. How will you determine when next to serve?

5

SELF-CONTROL (TITUS 2:11-14)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Proverbs 25:28 likes “a man without self-control” to a “city broken into and left without walls.” Why is this an appropriate description?

2. Paul contrasts self-control with ungodliness and worldly passions (Titus 2:12). Write a list of the worldly passions that most test Christian self-control.

3. What makes these passions especially difficult?

4. The call for self-control is rooted in the sacrifice of Jesus (2:14). According to this verse, why did Jesus die for you?

5. Paul says that grace is “training us... to live self-controlled.” It’s a process. What steps are important to grow in self-control?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The apostles ask that Jesus teach them to pray, because they are disciples who want to be like their teacher (11:1). Jesus offers a model prayer (11:2-4). What does each phrase teach us about praying like Jesus?
 - a. Father
 - b. Hallowed be your name
 - c. Your kingdom come
 - d. Give us each day our daily bread
 - e. Forgive us our sins, for we...
 - f. Lead us not into temptation
2. Have you ever thought God responded to prayer in any of the following ways? What gave you that impression?
 - a. Annoyed
 - b. Reluctant
 - c. Malicious
3. How do you see these attitudes exhibited by the neighbor (11:5-8) and the father (11:11-12)?
 - a. Annoyed
 - b. Reluctant
 - c. Malicious
4. How do Jesus promises about prayer (11:9-10, 13) contradict these misconceptions about God?
5. Having studied Jesus' teaching about prayer (11:1-13). Write a short summary. What should you pray and how should you pray it?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Imagine being a subject of a tyrannical government (1 Peter 2:13), a servant to an unjust master (2:18), or a wife to an unbelieving husband (3:1). What specific challenges do you think this would add to living as a Christian?
2. Not all suffering is equal. What two reasons for suffering does Peter describe (2:19-20)? Which one does Peter call a “gracious thing”?
3. Peter turns to Jesus’ trials and death (Mark 14:53-65) as the example of godly suffering (2:21). Initially, he focuses primarily on Jesus’ speech (2:22-23). Why might deceit, reviling, and threatening be a particular temptation when suffering unjustly?
4. Instead, Peter says, Jesus “continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly” (2:23). Why would this thought be a comfort to the servant on an unjust master?
5. Peter turns to another facet on the gem of Christ’s suffering; it was for us (2:24-25; Isaiah 53:5-6). How does this fact reshape the Christian’s attitude about Jesus’ suffering?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. John concludes that our confidence is proportionate to our conformity to Jesus (1 John 2:3, 5-6). If this is the case, how confident are you that you are in him?
2. Christians must walk the walk (3:6), not just talk the talk. Contrast those who do a lot of talking (1:6, 8, 10) versus those who do the walking (1:7, 9).
3. Consult the whole section (1:5-2:6). Does obedience mean sinlessness?
4. What is the appropriate relationship between grace and obedience?
5. Does this balance of grace and obedience change your level of confidence?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. You are what you think (Proverbs 23:7 NASB). Give three real life examples connecting a person's thoughts and actions.
2. Christ died, raised, ascended and will return. What specific changes does Paul encourage for the Christians to be like him (Colossians 3:1-4)?
3. The command to set your minds "not on the things that are on earth" (3:2) is further explained by the section beginning, "Put to death what is earthly in you..." (3:5-9). Summarize from this section the life defined by earthly thinking.
4. The parallel command, "Set your mind on the things that are above" (3:1-2), is explained by the section beginning, "Put on then..." (3:12-17). What is characteristically different about a life defined by "above" thinking?
5. What specific steps would you encourage to change a person's thinking?

