

THE DISCIPLES CROSS SESSION 1A *PUTTING CHRIST FIRST*

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE:

John 15:5

“I am the vine you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

1. Remind members they are to complete all the exercises and learn the material before they attend the group session. The purpose for discussing the material in the group is to reflect on it, and explore the subject further, and apply it.
2. Ask members to draw a big circle on a sheet of paper. Then write the word *Christ* in the middle of the circle. This circle is designed to help you focus on ways Christ is to be at the center of you life. Then ask, what would you put in the circle first (e.g. time, people, family, possessions, etc.)?

OPTIONAL: Ask members to draw a diamond on a sheet of paper with a vertical line inside the diamond from top to bottom. Then, ask members to check on another member’s work. If they have completed their work, draw a line from left to right inside the cross confirming their work.

3. Ask, who is a disciple? Suggest that the members look for the answers to their questions as the group reviews this week study? You may want to come back to this question at the end of your session.
4. Ask members what were two reasons Jesus chose the disciples? (See p. 12 in the member book) *To be with Him and to send them out*
5. Ask, What did Jesus do when people began following Him? (See p. 13 in the member book) *Jesus discouraged those who did not commit themselves fully to Him by stating the requirement for being a disciple*
6. Ask members to open their Bibles to Luke 14:26-33 and identify the three things over which Jesus said He must have priority. *Persons, possessions, and purposes*
7. Ask members to share their answers to the activity about what presently may be taking priority over Christ in their lives (see p. 17 in member book). Feel free to share your answer to begin discussion. Randy story: **1 Sam 16:7b** “Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” Acts 4:19 Peter and John’s reply.
8. Ask a member to list the three characteristics Jesus says should be in a disciple’s life (see p. 18 in the member book). *Obedience, love, and fruit.*
REMEMBER: LOVE PRODUCES OBEDIENCE, AND OBEDIENCE PRODUCES FRUIT.
9. Remind members to continue memorizing John 15:5 and devote time with the Master as well as days 4 and 5 of session one.

BE PERSISTENT UNTIL YOU ARE CONSISTENT