

Developing a Biblical Mindset of Christian Discipleship

By Dave Batty

Teacher Notes

Introduction:

If Teen Challenge is first and foremost a Great Commission ministry, then as staff we must see our primary role is to make disciples. This needs to dominate our thinking as we approach every area of our ministry.

Key Biblical Truth: Think discipleship!

Key Verse: Matthew 28:19-20 NIV

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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Our goal in this session is to get the staff to think strategically about Christian discipleship—think the way Jesus thought! They need to develop a mindset (attitude, pattern of thinking) where they see every daily situation as opportunities to teach a new way of living to their students.

Organizing this class session:

I highly recommend that after you give a brief introduction to this workshop, that you **briefly** introduce the 4 main points which describe four Powerful issues connected to discipleship:

1. The Power of choice
2. The Power of Sacrifice
3. The Power of Service
4. The Power of Fruitfulness

Once you have made this brief introduction, then have the students participate in the small group activity described below.

Small Group Activity

Break your class up into small groups of 2 or more per group and assign each group one or more of the scriptures below. Give them 7-10 minutes to come up with a list of the key points about Christian discipleship based on their assigned scriptures. Have them determine in their scriptures which of the 4 main points of Christian discipleship are talked about. Have them write down the verse and what it tells us about Christian discipleship.

Tell them that some scriptures may only talk about one of these 4 issues. Other scriptures may talk about several of them.

(PLEASE NOTE: A full copy of all these scriptures is at the end of this lesson plan—beginning on page 6.)

Have each group give a brief report on their findings to the whole class.

Give each group 3-4 minutes for their report to the whole class.

Have them explain which of the 4 issues of Christian discipleship are described in their scriptures.

Encourage the whole class to write down the scriptures that fit with each of the 4 main points on Christian discipleship.

Look up scripture and see what it says about being a disciple

1. ____ Mark 1:14-20, Mark 2:13-17, Matthew 4:18-22, John 1:35-43
2. ____ Matthew 10:34-42
3. ____ Luke 14:25-35
4. ____ Luke 18.18-30, Mark 10.17-31, Matthew 19.16-30
5. ____ Matthew 16.21-28, Mark 8.31-38, Luke 9.18-27
6. ____ Matthew 28.16-20
7. ____ John 12.20-26, John 13.34-35
8. ____ Matthew 8.14-22, Luke 9.57-62
9. ____ John 21.15-22

The Power of Christian Discipleship

As you cover this part of the workshop, we want to focus on four key Biblical elements that make Christian Discipleship such a powerful approach to helping students in our programs.

1. The Power of Choice

With each of the 4 main points of this workshop, we have given below a few examples from the scriptures. Many more scriptures and points could be added to what is below.

Jesus invited people to follow him -- **if you want** to follow me..... [5] Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23

Song, “I have decided to follow Jesus”

True choice is : informed choice

Count the cost

[8] (Matthew 8:18-22 Jesus described the cost of following him)

It is not manipulation

The Great Commission :

It is not a call for following Jesus by force

It is not external conformity

Jesus did not say, “If you do not become a disciple you will go to hell!”

He is looking for willing followers

Jesus talked of the Holy Spirit who would come after he left—he did not say the Holy Spirit will force you to follow his truth. He said the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. We have to be willing to be guided into his truth.

2. The Power of Sacrifice

Jesus made it clear that to follow him we must deny ourselves—it is a call to die to self.

[5] **Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23**

We must see our need for salvation as the foundation on which to build a life worth living.

We are not seeking to simply help people become drug free. Our goal is to see them become followers of Jesus and experience the new life that he has for them.

Use the story of the rich young ruler to point out his problem of full surrender.

[4] **Luke 18.18-30, Mark 10.17-31, Matthew 19.16-30**

Jesus made the similar point in Matthew 10:34-39 in terms of the cost of full surrender

Romans 12:1-2 Present yourself as a living sacrifice

Galatians 2:20 Paul says, “I have been crucified with Christ”

We must put off the old way of living and put on the new way of living.

3. The Power of Service

Jesus made it clear what we are to do: “Take up **your cross** and **follow me.**”

[5] Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23

This is a call to serve Him—to do what he has called us to do.

Jesus said, “I will make you fishers of men.” [1] **Mark 1:16-17**

Discipleship is a call to service

The disciples more than once were arguing about who what the greatest. Jesus confronted them on these attitudes

After the resurrection he challenged Peter to “feed my sheep” in [9] **John 21**

Speaking of himself, Jesus said to God the Father, “I have finished the work YOU gave me to do.” **John 17.4**

4. The Power of Fruitfulness

Great eternal rewards are promised to those who do what God has called them to do.

His call to the disciples was that success would be defined not by how many fish they caught in their business, but in becoming fishers of men—for eternal reward.

[4] Mark 10:28-31 Jesus promises we will receive 100 fold return both now and in the life to come

Reward also discussed in [2] **Matthew 10:40-42** and **Mark 9:41**—even the smallest act done in His name brings a reward.

Fruitfulness needs to be measured by the standard of the Great Commission.

Are we making disciples in the whole world?

What is my part and what is God’s part in being fruitful?

Conclusion

As you conclude this workshop, use the 3 questions below as personal challenges to them on how they can apply these scriptures in their own ministry.

1. How do we make Christian discipleship the dominant approach in our mindset as we do our work at Teen Challenge?
2. How do we make Christian discipleship the primary therapeutic method (model, strategy) used in our ministry?
3. How do we make the Great Commission our primary standard for daily operation in our ministry?

My big idea:

End the class by having them break up into groups of 2 or 3 and share what is the one big idea from this session that spoke to them the most and how they hope to apply that in their life in the days ahead.

Scriptures used for the Small Group Activity

1. _____ Mark 1:14-20, Mark 2:13-17, Matthew 4:18-22, John 1:35-43

Mark 1:14-20

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The Calling of the First Disciples

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Mark 2:13-17

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The Calling of Levi

¹³ Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. ¹⁴ As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

¹⁵ While Jesus was having dinner at Levi’s house, many tax collectors and “sinners” were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the “sinners” and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: “Why does he eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners?’”

¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Matthew 4:18-22

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The Calling of the First Disciples

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

John 1:35-43

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Jesus' First Disciples

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.

⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter^(a)).

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

2. _____ Matthew 10:34-42**Matthew 10:34-42**

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³⁴ "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn

"a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

³⁶ a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'^(a)

³⁷ "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸ and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

⁴⁰ "He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. ⁴² And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."

3. _____ Luke 14:25-35

Luke 14:25-35

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The Cost of Being a Disciple

²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’

³¹ “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.³³ In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

³⁴ “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵ It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

4. _____ Luke 18:18-30, Mark 10:17-31, Matthew 19:16-30

Luke 18:18-30

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The Rich Ruler

¹⁸ A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁹ “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’¹⁹”

²¹ “All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said.

²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²³ When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. ²⁴ Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁶ Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁷ Jesus replied, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”

²⁸ Peter said to him, “We have left all we had to follow you!”

²⁹ “I tell you the truth,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God ³⁰ will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life.”

Footnotes:

- a. **Luke 18:20** Exodus 20:12-16; Deut. 5:16-20

Mark 10:17-31

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The Rich Young Man

¹⁷ As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁸ “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.’^[a]”

²⁰ “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²² At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

²⁴ The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is^[b] to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁶ The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

²⁸ Peter said to him, “We have left everything to follow you!”

²⁹ “I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Footnotes:

- a. **Mark 10:19** Exodus 20:12-16; Deut. 5:16-20
 b. **Mark 10:24** Some manuscripts *is for those who trust in riches*

Matthew 19:16-30

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The Rich Young Man

¹⁶ Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”

¹⁷ “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.”

¹⁸ “Which ones?” the man inquired.

Jesus replied, “‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, ¹⁹ honor your father and mother,’^(a) and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’^(b)”

²⁰ “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”

²¹ Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁶ Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

²⁷ Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”

²⁸ Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother^(c) or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

Footnotes:

- a. [Matthew 19:19](#) Exodus 20:12-16; Deut. 5:16-20
- b. [Matthew 19:19](#) Lev. 19:18
- c. [Matthew 19:29](#) Some manuscripts *mother or wife*

5. _____ Matthew 16.21-28, Mark 8.31-38, Luke 9.18-27**Matthew 16:21-28**

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Jesus Predicts His Death

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save his life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. ²⁸ I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Footnotes:

- a. **Matthew 16:25** The Greek word means either *life* or *soul*; also in verse 26.

Mark 8:31-38

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Jesus Predicts His Death

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷ Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

Footnotes:

- a. **Mark 8:35** The Greek word means either *life* or *soul*; also in verse 36.

Luke 9:18-27

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Peter's Confession of Christ

¹⁸ Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?"

¹⁹ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."

²⁰ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "The Christ^[a] of God."

²¹ Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. ²² And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

²³ Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? ²⁶ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. ²⁷ I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

Footnotes:

- a. **Luke 9:20** Or *Messiah*

6. _____ Matthew 28.16-20**Matthew 28:16-20**

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The Great Commission

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Footnotes:

- a. **Matthew 28:19** Or *into*; see Acts 8:16; 19:5; Romans 6:3; 1 Cor. 1:13; 10:2 and Gal. 3:27.

7. _____ John 12.20-26

John 12:20-26

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Jesus Predicts His Death

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

8. _____ Matthew 8.14-22, Luke 9.57-62

Matthew 8:14-22

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Jesus Heals Many

¹⁴ When Jesus came into Peter’s house, he saw Peter’s mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. ¹⁵ He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

¹⁶ When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

“He took up our infirmities
and carried our diseases.”^[a]

The Cost of Following Jesus

¹⁸ When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. ¹⁹ Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”

²⁰ Jesus replied, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

²¹ Another disciple said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

²² But Jesus told him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

Footnotes:

- a. [Matthew 8:17](#) Isaiah 53:4

Luke 9:57-62

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The Cost of Following Jesus

⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

⁵⁸ Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

⁵⁹ He said to another man, "Follow me."

But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

⁶¹ Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family."

⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

9. _____ John 21:15-22**John 21:15-22**

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Jesus Reinstates Peter

¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

¹⁶ Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

¹⁷ The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

²⁰ Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) ²¹ When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”

²² Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.”