



# THE THINGS DISCIPLES DO

Lesson 1

Wednesday,  
January 7

What's a disciple? How are disciples made? What do they do? Why does discipleship still matter? These are the sorts of questions we want to wrestle with over the next few months. There are lots of ways to study and grow in our ability to answer those questions. In this particular series, we want to use the Gospels and *The Acts of the Apostles* to notice together the sort of things the earliest disciples did. Maybe if we spend some time looking over their shoulders and listening in to their conversations, it will help us grow as disciples of Jesus too.

Let's start in **John 1**. John has been baptizing people in the Jordan River and has said now two times (**1:29, 36**) as he drew attention to Jesus from Nazareth, "Behold, the \_\_\_\_\_ of God." When two of John's disciples heard him say this, they started following Jesus. When Jesus asked them, "What are you seeking?" they asked where he was staying and Jesus invited them, "Come and you will see."

So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed \_\_\_\_\_ him that day, for it was about the \_\_\_\_\_ hour. (**1:39**)

It's a simple principle to start with, but very important: **disciples spend \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus.**

One of those two disciples was named Andrew.

He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the \_\_\_\_\_" (which means Christ). He \_\_\_\_\_ him to Jesus. (**1:41-42**)

The next day, Jesus called a man named Philip to follow him. And the first thing Philip did?

Philip found \_\_\_\_\_ and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." (**1:45**)

From this point forward and all through the rest of the New Testament, a simple but important pattern begins to emerge: **disciples \_\_\_\_\_ other people \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.**

Finally, in **Luke 5:1-11**, after teaching a crowd from a boat that belonged to Simon Peter, Jesus challenged Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." Simon was skeptical. After all, they hadn't caught anything all night. But when Simon and the other fishermen with him did what Jesus said, they caught so many fish that the boats began to sink! And when they got their boats back to land? "They left \_\_\_\_\_ and followed him." **Disciples \_\_\_\_\_ things behind.** What sort of things? Let's talk about it...

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ What do we learn about John in [John 1:19-28](#)? What was he doing out in the wilderness, and why?
- ▶ “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” That sounds like a really important idea. What is John communicating? How did he know?
- ▶ Andrew and the other disciple who heard John call Jesus “the Lamb of God” spent that evening with Jesus ([1:39](#)). It’s a simple principle, but very important: **disciples spend time with Jesus**. We live a long time after the events in [John 1](#). Can we still spend time with Jesus? If so, how? Why does it matter so much?
- ▶ What did Andrew mean when he told his brother Simon, “We have found the Messiah”? ([1:41](#))?
- ▶ Let’s read [John 1:46-51](#). What did Nathanael think when Philip told him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote”?
- ▶ Both instances are early examples in a long New Testament pattern: **disciples bring other people to Jesus**. Why? Does that still matter? If so, can we still do that today? If so, how? What sort of challenges might we face along the way?
- ▶ In [Luke 5](#), why do you think Simon Peter reacted the way that he did in [5:8](#)?
- ▶ What did Jesus mean in [5:10](#)?
- ▶ Here is the beginning of another pattern that can be seen throughout the Bible: **disciples leave things behind**. What sort of things? If we’re going to be disciples today, do we need to leave anything behind? [Hebrews 12:1-2](#) might be helpful here...