

Resource:

Commitment & beyond studies

Question: What do you suggest doing with a group after completing a Creation to Christ study?

Being Disciples - When a group reaches the point of commitment, it is important that you let the Bible show them what they need to do – rather than you telling them based on your experience. One very effective way to do this is to look at Scriptures which show what Jesus expected of His disciples.

COMMITMENT STUDY

Scriptures for Deciding to Commit to Jesus as Lord

Look up the following passages and let the group discover what expectations Jesus has for His disciples.

Jesus said His disciples (followers)...

- 1) Luke 14:25-27, 33
 - die daily to our desires and even our family's desires – Jesus' desires alone.
 - carry our cross daily (suffering/persecution) and follow Christ.
 - give up everything to God (slaves of Jesus – we must count the cost).
- 2) John 12:24-26
 - are willing to follow His example and die so they'll bear much fruit.
- 3) John 15:7-8
 - abide in Christ & have God's Word abide in them
 - have their prayers answered.
 - bear much fruit so God is glorified!
- 4) John 8:31-32
 - hold to (obey) Christ's teaching.
- 5) John 13:34-35
 - love one another as Christ loves them
- 6) Matthew 28:18-20
 - make disciples of all nations.
 - Going and sharing the Gospel
 - Baptizing (this is the first step of obedience upon commitment)
 - Teaching to Obey
 - The Apostles did this by grouping believers into churches (Acts 2:42-47)

BAPTISM STUDY

Scriptures for Deciding to Commit to Jesus in Baptism

How did the early believers respond? – Look up the following passages and note the pattern we see repeated in the passages below. (The group should look together at each of these passages to discern that the early believers heard, believed, repented, and then were immediately baptized and received the Holy Spirit.)

- (1) Acts 2:22-25,32-33,36-41 – When 3,000 believed...
- (2) Acts 10:44-48 – When Cornelius and his family & friends believed...
- (3) Acts 16:13-15 – When women by riverside heard the message...
- (4) Acts 16:22-33 – When a Roman jailer believed...
- (5) Acts 18:1-8 – When Crispus, a religious leader and his family + other believed...

After studying the Commitment passages & the Baptism passages, ask the group:

- What will you do to obey?
- Who else needs to hear about these things?

At that point, you may want to make a plan for a baptism service with them. Discuss who should come, where it should be, who will do the baptism, etc. Be careful not to introduce “Christian culture” at this point – let them make their own faith-based decisions based on the passages above and their cultural considerations.

“WHAT DO FOLLOWERS OF JESUS DO IN THEIR DAILY LIVES?”

The Wheel Illustration (modified from The Navigators)

Introduction: Below is an illustration of the most basic things that a follower of The Way of God (= Follower of Jesus) does in his/her daily life.

Note: Frequently remind believers that we cannot obtain salvation by doing these things -- man only be saved through faith in Jesus Christ who gave Himself as a sacrifice of atonement through his blood – but that these are some basic things that we do now that we’ve been forgiven.

Simply put, a follower of God’s Way is one who has been forgiven of his sins and now wants to obey the commandments of Christ because he loves Him. Jesus taught in Matthew 22:37-40 that the first and greatest commandment is:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.

And the second commandment is:

Love others as you love yourself.

The following diagram seeks to show how we obey these greatest commands by doing two main things for each. The Wheel is an illustration:



The rubber meets the road (Loving God and each other):

Study 1 – Matthew 22:34-40

MEMORIZE: Matthew 22:37-38

Jesus is the Axel (Jesus is The Center of life & salvation):

Study 2 – John 15:1-8

Study 3 – John 20:24-31

Study 4 – Acts 4:1-12

MEMORIZE: John 20:31

The vertical spokes show how we love God:

*** We Worship God and Pray**

Study 5 – Luke 11:1-13

Study 6 – Acts 4:13-31

MEMORIZE: Luke 11:9

*** We Meditate on God's Word daily**

Study 7 – Psalms 119:9-24

Study 8 – Acts 17:1-4; 17:10-12

MEMORIZE: John 15:7

The horizontal spokes show how we love one another:

*** We commit to and engage in a Church**

Study 9 – Matthew 16:13-19

Study 10 – Acts 2:37-47

MEMORIZE: Matthew 16:16

*** We Witness to those who don't yet know The Way**

Study 11 – Matthew 5:13-16 & Lukas 9:26

Study 12 – Acts 1:1-8

MEMORIZE : Matthew 5:16

Conclusion: *Once Groups have finished the studies above, normally they begin studying directly from a Gospel, then Acts or do studies on being a church and on character issues from the Epistles.*