

# *Make Disciples– Youth Lessons*

## **Lesson #2 – Jesus Wants Me As A Friend**

### **Life Need – Purpose statement**

In this lesson, we will understand that not only did Jesus Christ become my personal Savior when I accepted Him into my life, but that He was reaching out to become my friend in the first place. This was best shown in Jesus' life as He reached out to people individually to draw them to Himself as a friend. Then we need to reach out to others to show that Jesus wants to be their friend, too.

### **Biblical references – Scriptural background**

John 6:44

I John 4:10

### **Teacher Preparation – Information to know**

For the best effectiveness of this lesson, it should be taught in an intimate setting of one to eight students. In this kind of setting, the students are then looked at as human beings – not just a “class” to move on after getting the correct answers. They each have a value all their own. This even brings them together to become an enabling community – to help each other develop spiritually with his or her own special gifts and resources.

Familiarize yourself with Lessons 4 and 5 in ***Following Jesus - Standard A: Who Is Jesus And What Does It Mean To Follow Him?*** This will give you background resource to use in teaching this lesson.

Don't forget that the learner perceives truth in various ways through these lessons. As a teacher/instructor/mentor, I must be prepared to accept the fact that my students and discipleship partners may not always understand the truth as I do. If my student is a Christian who is resisting the Holy Spirit in his or her life, there will be problems in accepting the truth I am trying to get across. Also, students who have just accepted Jesus Christ into their lives will still be feeding on the milk, not the meat, of the Word of Truth. We must consider, too, the possibility that my explanation may be less than clear to my students and discipleship partners. Knowing where the individual learners are spiritually is invaluable information for me as a teacher who desires to see spiritual growth. I can then take the Truth to their perspective more accurately.

To draw a learner to examine God's point of view is an exciting part of teaching, instructing and discipling. It is then that we have a chance to see God at work in their lives. When we see God's truth and values becoming a part of the learner's inner character, we can rejoice with God Himself over a student conforming to the image of His Son Jesus Christ.

As you prepare to use the **BibleStoryCards\*** of Jesus life and the **EvangeCube\***, make yourself very familiar with these tools to share God's salvation plan. Never just read word for word, unless you are narrating the story. Make sure that all the students can see okay the Cards or EvangeCube and can hear clearly.

While you teach these lessons, make eye contact with your students to show them your excitement about the story of Jesus. This will also help you notice if they are grasping the truth's you are sharing. Feel free to interact with students during the lesson at any time.

*\* BibleStoryCards™ are trading-size cards that help you learn Bible stories easily and apply them to your lives! Each card is colorfully illustrated on the front with the Bible story and review questions written on the back. There are 50 Old Testament BibleStoryCards and 50 New Testament cards. Go to*

*<http://www.wesleyan.org/wph/childrensresources/biblestorycards/biblestorycards.htm> to purchase them.*

*\*The EvangeCube® is a seven-panel cube that tells the story of the Gospel of Christ in pictures. Go to [www.jfhp.org](http://www.jfhp.org) for more information and to purchase them.*

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## **Teaching Life – Basic Lifestyle Understanding**

After prayer, begin this lesson by using the following BibleStoryCards to show how Jesus reached out to people as individuals. If at all possible, use the same sections out of the Jesus Film for students to watch. This will make an even stronger connection for students to understand Jesus drawing people to Himself as friends.

- #57 Calling The Disciples – Mark 1:14-20
- #58 The Paralyzed Man – Mark 2:1-12
- #60 Samaritan Woman – John 4:1-42
- #62 Calming The Storm - Luke 8:22-25
- #72 Zacchaeus Luke 19:1-10

After each BibleStoryCard presentation and/or each section is show from the Jesus Film, discuss how Jesus reached out to these individuals to make them feel He was interested in them and wanting to be their friend.

## **Teaching Truth – Basic Biblical Truth**

Read John 6:44 to the students. Then, discuss ways with your students that God through Jesus Christ was drawing each of them to Himself – to become His friend. Then read I John 4:10 and discuss how God loved us even when we didn't know Him or love Him.

God was drawing us to Himself through the Cross of Jesus Christ. Through Jesus' suffering, shed blood, and death on the Cross our personal salvation is made possible. This is called atonement. You can also look at it as "at-one-ment." Atonement makes us "at-one" with our loving Heavenly Father. He wants us to be friends and has made this condition to bring us back into a right relationship with Him.

We must remember that what Jesus did for us, He did for everyone. John 3:16 and 17 says this truth. Christianity is not a closed or exclusive organization. Christianity is wide open to all people who accept Jesus as Savior and friend. This includes the individual students in your group. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is for everyone. In fact, every man, woman and child in the whole world is invited to repent and receive Christ as Lord and Savior.

## **Teaching Application – Basic Life Application**

Jesus chose to be our friend. Now we choose to follow Him as a friend. God trusted each of us to choose right from wrong from the very beginning. We each are free to choose – who we follow and who we make as friends. We are not robots created by God – we are His friends. We have the power to say yes or no to God as He reaches out and draws us to Himself. We can accept or reject His forgiveness. It is our decision.

We were free when we chose Christ. And we still are free. The really good news is that Jesus, who began this good work in us, is able to keep us from slipping and falling away. However, it is possible to choose Christ and later reverse our decision. It is possible to turn our backs against this Friend – to crowd Him out of our lives by unchristian choices. If we choose to go against God's desires for us as friends, we have sinned. And unless we repent and trust again, we will be lost forever. But, if we do choose and believe, God's grace and love for us through Christ's death covers our sins. The grace of God is at work even before we knew Him as our friend.

In closing, decide as a group how we could communicate this good news to our other friends. Romans 3:23 points out the bad news of sin. But Romans 3:24 puts the good news in our lives that we can share with our friends. Discuss ways these verses could be put into your own words to share with others to show them how God through Jesus wants to be our friend.

Close in prayer that includes thanking God for reaching out and making us His friend through Jesus Christ. And pray for Him to use us to reach out in friendship to our other friends to tell them about Jesus Christ.