

Being a disciple is a journey full of purpose and joy!

"When you obey My commandments, you remain in My love, just as I obey My Father's commandments and remain in His love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with My joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!" John 15:10

Why does obeying and following Jesus bring so much joy into your life?

"We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."
C. S. Lewis

Can you explain what C.S. Lewis means in this quote? How does this apply to our lives?

Being a disciple demands commitment

"As they were walking along the road, a man said to Him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' Jesus replied, 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.' He said to another man, 'Follow me.' But the man replied, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Still another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family.' Jesus replied, 'No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'" Luke 9:57-62

What point is Jesus trying to make by these intense statements? How can we avoid making excuses about not following Christ?

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. 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?" Matt 16:24-26

What does Jesus mean by "take up your cross and follow Me?" In what areas is it hardest for you to follow Jesus? What other principles can we draw from this passage?

Let's brainstorm three lists: one for the cost of discipleship, another for the benefits, and one more for the cost of non-discipleship.

COST**BENEFIT****COST OF NON-DISCIPLESHIP**

What Does a Disciple Do? The Wheel Illustration**Christ the Center**

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."
Philippians 1:21

Obedience

"Whoever has My commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." John 14:21

The Word

"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed." John 8:31b

Prayer

"Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." John 16:24

Fellowship

"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples." John 13:34-35

Witnessing

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." – Matt 4:19

What would happen to a wheel if it were missing a spoke? What if the spokes were uneven? Which of these areas do you need to work on most?

Discipleship Challenge: Read "My Heart Christ's Home." Memorize Matthew 16:24-26

