



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for February 24, 2008
Released on Wednesday, February 20, 2008**

"Becoming a Follower"

MEMORY VERSE: "Whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27).

Luke 14:25-33

25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,
26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.
27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.
28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?
29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,
30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.
31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?
32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.
33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON

Great crowds attached themselves to Jesus as He traveled about. They listened to His teaching. They watched Him perform miracles. But He knew many were just caught up in the excitement of the moment.

One day Jesus especially addressed this problem and told the people what commitment to Him demanded. Did they really want to learn from Him? If so, their very way of living had to change. No longer could they do as they pleased. They would take their orders from Him. This lesson will tell your primaries how Jesus expects His children to live.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that to truly be a follower of Jesus, we must recognize that He is in charge of our lives and obey Him.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Jesus' people have a new Leader; it is Jesus Himself.
2. Jesus' followers are to please Him rather than themselves.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Telling the Lesson, make four signs from different colors of construction paper: a cross, a tower, a king (a stick figure wearing a crown), "10,000," and "20,000." Take along a completed sample of the artwork, which will also be used for Telling How to Live. You will also have to make "STOP" and "THINK" signs.

For Telling How to Live, make a sign showing a cross.
For Helping to Remember, each student will need a new unsharpened pencil and a large stop sign shape drawn on red construction paper. Provide safety scissors (round edge), crayons, and tape.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Have you noticed how often people are in charge of other people? Who is in charge in this classroom? Who is in charge of the whole church? We do what the people in charge of us tell us to do. Listen to who is in charge in today's lesson.

TELLING THE LESSON:

You know how Jesus walked from one town to the next, teaching about God and making sick people well. Soon big crowds of people were following Him everywhere He went. The crowds liked to hear Him teach. They liked to watch Him make blind people see. Some just liked being with somebody important.

One day Jesus said to the big crowd, "You want to follow Me, but stop and think what you are doing." Now, those were not the words He used, but that is what He meant.

Jesus drew a word picture to show what following Him is like. He said, "Whoever does not carry his cross and go where I lead him cannot be one of My followers." We do not understand that word picture right away, but the crowd back then did.

In those days, when soldiers took a man out to die on a cross, they made him carry it to the dying place. That said to everybody along the way that the man's life was going to end. Jesus was saying that was a picture of something else.

What He meant was this: "You like being with Me. But if you truly want to be My followers, the way you live must, come to an end. You have been in charge of your life. You have been doing what you want to do. If you are going to be My follower, I must be in charge. You must do what I say. Pleasing Me must come before pleasing yourself. Only people who let Me be in charge are really My followers."

That is what Jesus wanted the big crowd to know. It is what He wants us to know. Following Jesus means letting Him be in charge. He said to stop and think about that. (Show "STOP" and then "THINK.")

Jesus drew another word picture. Suppose they wanted to build a tower. (Show tower.) Before even starting, they would sit down and think. "Let me see. I will need this many bricks. I will need this many workers. I will need this much money to pay for it all. I do not want to have to stop in the middle because I do not have enough money to finish my tower."

Again, Jesus was saying to stop and think. (Show "STOP" and "THINK.") Following Him means obeying Him. He did not want them to start following and then give up.

Jesus drew one last word picture. Suppose a king wanted to go to war against another king. (Show king.) First he too would stop and think. (Show "STOP" and "THINK.") He would sit down with his helpers and talk about it. "Let us see. We have ten thousand soldiers. He has twenty thousand. (Show "10,000" and "20,000.") We do not want to start to fight and then have to give up."

Jesus wants people today to stop and think about what being one of His followers means. (Show "STOP" and "THINK.") His followers stop living the way they used to. They do not just try to please themselves now. They let Jesus be in charge.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Stop and think. (Show "STOP" and "THINK.") That is what Jesus wants you to do. Have you let Him take away your sins? (Show cross.) That is the place for a follower of Jesus to start.

Remember how Jesus wants His followers to live. Things are different now. You have a new Leader. Jesus is in charge. (Show cross.)

So read His Book to find out what pleases Him. Do what He says. That is the way to be a follower of Jesus.

HELPING TO REMEMBER (ACTIVITIES):

Let the children cut out their signs and print "STOP" on one side and "THINK" on the other. Tape their pencils to the signs to serve as handles.

A word search for this week's lesson is included at the end of this summary with key words from the lesson.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"Whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27).

In Jesus' time, anybody who was going to die on a cross picked it up and carried it to the dying place. The life he had been living was going to end. Jesus said that being one of His people is like that in a way, because doing just what we want with our life ends when we decide to follow Jesus.

He is our Leader now. We go where He tells us. Only the people who do that are really Jesus' followers.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next quarter's lessons deal with God's covenant with the people of Israel. While such a theme could begin much earlier, our lessons will start with King David. The ark had been without a home for many years, and next week we will study how David brought the ark to Jerusalem. Study **1 Chronicles 15:1-28 "The Ark Comes to Jerusalem"** to prepare.

Lesson Summarized By:

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"Becoming a Follower"

H A L F G X B W S P Y U K Y M
S E L P I C S I D N N W W U C
U N V Y W N S L I L T Z L H A
B R E A R T I J H W O T A Z N
G I C R E Q O S T A I R O B N
V H M R D M E T H T C E X I O
S S O R C L D P U U G H U Q T
W I F E P I I D V N A T I Y V
M O T H E R E H I P X O G V Y
C C F K D S E K C U T R D Z T
A W G K K L O J A C E B B E X
Q B A O W R I J Q H C V Q O I
I S R R Y P J U T I A J R T X
X P N B B H B A B Q E B K R L
X G G S M M F Z P B P N O S B

BROTHER
CHILDREN
FATHER
MOTHER
SISTER

BUILD
CROSS
FINISH
MULTITUDES
WAR

CANNOT
DISCIPLES
KING
PEACE
WIFE

15 of 15 words were placed into the puzzle.

"Becoming a Follower" Solution

+ + + F + + + + S + + + + + M
S E L P I C S I D + + + + U C
+ N + + + N S + + + + + L + A
+ + E + + T I + + + + T + + N
+ + + R E + + S + + I R + + N
+ + + R D + + + H T + E + + O
S S O R C L + + U + G H + + T
W I F E + + I D + N + T + + +
M O T H E R E H I + + O + + +
+ + + + D S + K C + + R + + +
+ W + + + L + + + + E B + + +
+ + A + + + I + + H C + + + +
+ + + R + + + U T + A + + + +
+ + + + + + + A B + E + + + +
+ + + + + + + F + + + P + + + +

(Over,Down,Direction)

BROTHER(12,11,N)

BUILD(9,14,NW)

CANNOT(15,2,S)

CHILDREN(9,10,NW)

CROSS(5,7,W)

DISCIPLES(9,2,W)

FATHER(7,15,NE)

FINISH(4,1,SE)

KING(8,10,NE)

MOTHER(1,9,E)

MULTITUDES(15,1,SW)

PEACE(11,15,N)

SISTER(9,1,SW)

WAR(2,11,SE)

WIFE(1,8,E)