

Matthew 28:16-20 (NLT) - 16 Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted! 18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 4:17-22 (NLT) - 17 From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” 18 One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. 19 Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” 20 And they left their nets at once and followed him. 21 A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too. 22 They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind.

1 Corinthians 1:10-15 (NLT) - 10 I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. 11 For some members of Chloe’s household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. 12 Some of you are saying, “I am a follower of Paul.” Others are saying, “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Peter,” or “I follow only Christ.” 13 Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not! 14 I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 for now no one can say they were baptized in my name.

We are invited to become more like Jesus in both our internal formation, and external manifestation

Study Guide

This last Sunday we spoke about how we are invited to become more like Jesus and, in doing so, invite others to do the same. As you think about that invitation, what has it looked like for you to become more like Jesus? What has helped? What parts of that have been difficult?

It can be hard to remember what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Sometimes it is easy to slide into a sort of religious rhythm and lose the urgency or the intensity of that call. Take a moment to read Luke 19:1-10. What do you think happened here? Why do you think Zacchaeus made that declaration? It turns out that spending time with Jesus seems to inspire Zacchaeus to change his life as well. It seems that, after spending time with Jesus Zacchaeus discovered the gap in the difference between his life and the life of Jesus, and he didn’t just notice it, he did something about it.

If you were to evaluate how you are doing with becoming more like Jesus, where do you think you are doing really well? Where have you been able to change your life and heart to mimic Jesus better? Where has it been hard to close that gap?

Discipleship is a lifelong journey, and there will always be places for us to grow more like Jesus, but that should never discourage us from losing sight of our calling, and it should never push us away out of shame. Jesus died so that we could be forgiven and he invites us to not only become like him but to help others to do the same. What higher calling could there be?

Take some time to pray for each other, that we would all become more like Jesus and never lose our desire to become more and more like him!