

The Essentials

The Verses

Luke 5:1-11
Also Romans 12:4 – 5;
Isaiah 46:10

Movie Clip

Glory Road

Activity Prep

None

Activity Supplies

Paper and Pencil

Topics

God's Plan, Purpose

The Essential ?'s

What Are You Trying to Teach Them?

The dangers of selfishness.

How Do You Know They Got It?

They can connect selfishness to unhappiness.

What Do You Do With Those That Don't?

Emphasize specific examples and parallel selfishness and the way it makes us feel to other things that separate us from God, such as unforgiveness, desires, greed and hatred.

What About Those That Already Had It?

Challenge them throughout the week to check their selfishness at home with family.

Team Builders

New Testament: Lesson 12

Opening Questions

- ❖ What kind of men do you think Jesus' disciples were?
- ❖ Do you think you would have made a good disciple? Why or why not?
- ❖ If you were to become the pastor of your church, what would be your strengths and weaknesses?

Activity: Want (A Disciple) Ad

Have your students get into small groups of two to four each. Give everyone a piece of paper and a pen. Tell them that you need to recruit some disciples to follow you around on a three-year mission trip, much like Jesus' twelve disciples. They need to write a want ad to put in a newspaper. It needs to be one paragraph long and describe the type of person they think you'd be looking for. Give everyone several minutes to complete the ad and then have each group read what they came up with. (Note: Keep one of the ads for New Testament: Lesson 13.)

Activity Questions

- ❖ What were the main qualities in a person you were trying to recruit?
- ❖ If you had to choose, what cities would you target with your ad?
- ❖ What would other ways of recruiting be?

The Story: Calling the First Disciples

As Jesus began his ministry, he chose to bring a handful of people to work closely with him. He would go on to teach these men and empower them to preach, perform miracles and even forgive sins.

Instead of going to the schools or temples to find his closest disciples, Jesus started out at the fishing docks. He found men that probably didn't feel they were worthy, would be hard working and dedicated. Of the first three men he chose, two were Peter and John, who would go on to become his closest friends.

Movie Clip: Glory Road (0:07:22 – 0:15:22)

Coach Begins Recruiting a Team

Coach Haskins is trying to put together a winning basketball team. Unfortunately, he doesn't have a big school, a budget to speak of, or much of a reputation. (The last team he coached to a championship was a group of high school girls.)

When he sees his moment of opportunity in a gifted black player sitting on the edge of a bench at a recruiting game, he grabs it. Soon Haskins realizes that his only chance of putting together a winning team is by recruiting black players that no one else will recruit because of "unwritten" rules of college basketball.

Movie Questions

- ❖ What "unwritten" rules do you face in talking about God?
- ❖ How are you like one of the players Coach Haskins recruited?
- ❖ In what ways are Christians looked down on?

What They Have in Common

Jesus had about as much intention of doing his ministry alone as Coach Haskins did getting on the court himself to win a basketball game. They both wanted to build a team around them that could follow them into anything and deal with anyone.

While everyone else had certain standards and assumptions on whom to recruit, all Haskins saw was players that could win. He didn't see color, only talent. All Jesus saw was heart. He didn't see status, money, education or any of the other things other religious leaders saw in his day. Both the disciples and Haskin's recruits had what they needed, but not much else. Good thing nothing else mattered.

What We Can Learn

Have you ever looked at some super mega-Christian, like Billy Graham or James Dobson, and thought there is no way you could ever be like them? Believe it or not, that could be a good thing. That's no knock against Graham or Dobson, but God uses all types of people to do his work. He needs all different sorts in all different situations. Billy Graham is great in front of thousands of people, but how would he be accepted sitting at your lunch table at school? James Dobson has influenced thousands of people, but he would get laughed out of town if he tried to go hang out with most of the kids at your school.

You, on the other hand, can be used in ways that they can't. You can be used in ways that your pastor can't, your parents can't and even other students can't. When Jesus went looking for men to work with him as he spread the gospel, he didn't look in the typical places you would think God's son would go to. He went to fishermen and other ruffians. He went to the despised and lowly. He went to those humble enough to know their place, and accept his.

Coach Haskins got the best group of players he could find. Jesus brought together the best group of disciples he could find as well. So when you're in a certain situation with a chance to serve God, how great is it to realize that you're the best person he can find, too. If you're there, then you're his top choice.

God had plans for those disciples beyond their wildest dreams, just like the Miners could have never dreamed they'd be playing for the national title. Jesus showed them a miracle first, by filling their nets. When he shows you a miracle of any kind, know that it doesn't stand alone. He has shown you the miracle because he wants to use you in miraculous ways. Be looking for the fish God is giving you, then look for ways he can use you be a fisher of men.

Ending Questions

- ❖ If Jesus came to you like he did the disciples, what kind of miracle could he show you that would make you drop everything and follow him?
- ❖ Do you think you could have been a disciple? Why or why not?
- ❖ What qualities do you (or other people in this room) have that most people overlook?
- ❖ What is the most encouraging thing to you about this story?
- ❖ What exactly did the disciples have to offer Jesus that Pharisees or other religious leaders didn't?