

Are You a Disciple? | Week 2 - Disciples Obey God's Word

Big Idea

Disciples of Jesus are identified by their allegiance to Jesus and obedience to his commands.

Scripture

John 8:31-36 and John 14:15-21

Points to Keep In Mind

1. In John 8:31-36, Jesus tells us we are true disciples when we hold to or follow his teachings. He also states when we do that, we will know the truth and that truth will set us free. Jesus does not give us freedom to do what we want, but freedom to follow God.
2. Obedience is an invitation to a loving relationship, as stated by Jesus in John 14:21. It is a mark of our allegiance to Jesus. It is an opportunity to express our love to the one who was willing to go to the cross so that you and I could belong to the family of God.
3. What an incredible promise from Jesus that he will not leave us as orphans but will come to us (John 14:18). He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).
4. Encourage everyone in your group to share their viewpoint for question 4. We see the fishbowl analogy illustrate how the teachings and commands of Jesus are an invitation to freedom. They are the limits that enable us to thrive. For example, (Matthew 5:39) Jesus says, when you are wronged, don't retaliate but turn the other cheek. His teaching is a limit that becomes a freedom. Instead of being consumed by anger and a desire for revenge, we can experience the freedom of forgiveness. (Matthew 5:28) Jesus says, don't give yourself over to lust. His teaching is a limit that becomes a freedom. Instead of being enslaved by an addiction to pornography, we can experience the freedom to love. (Matthew 7:1) Jesus says, do not judge. His teaching is a limit that becomes a freedom. Instead of being imprisoned by the desire to condemn, we can experience the freedom of grace. What disciples of Jesus come to realize is that the constraints of his commands aren't there to force us into good behavior but to set us free. Obedience is an invitation to freedom.

Additional Questions and Resources

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1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism
4. What have you been learning from the Community Daily? communitychristian.org/daily
5. If someone is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: communitychristian.org/mentalhealth/
6. Find out more about having a YOU+ Discipleship Conversation by visiting: youplus.info