

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

Disciples of Christ understand the urgency of the Gospel.

SCRIPTURE

JOHN 1:35-42



BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

John the Baptist was the forerunner of the Gospel message. He was tasked with the honor of introducing the Messiah to God's chosen people, Israel. His message was one of repentance and preparing for the arrival of the Christ. John's God-given authority drew people from all over to hear him speak about the coming Christ. When Jesus arrived, John was quick to point to Jesus and say, "There he is, the one I've been telling you about, the Lamb of God." Just like John did, Andrew also pointed others to Jesus, the Messiah.

Check out the **Teacher Prep Video** for this lesson: <https://vimeo.com/817792236>

FACILITATOR NOTE: We're giving you a lot of teaching material. Don't feel like you should cover everything here. You know your group better than anyone. Choose the material that will best fit your students and skip over the rest.

OPENING

PRAYER

1-2 minutes

Start your small group by asking the Lord to bless your discussion and time together.

OPTIONAL: Give students an opportunity to lead the prayer.

OPENING QUESTIONS

3-5 minutes

- How was the week? What's the best thing that's happened? Anything major going on?
- You just found out the zombie apocalypse has begun. You can pick one person to be with you. Who do you pick and why?



EXPLORE

EXPLORE GOD'S WORD

3-5 minutes

Encountering Jesus is a powerful experience that will leave you changed. When Andrew met Jesus for the first time, he knew he'd found the Messiah. Scripture points out that the first thing Andrew did with this incredible discovery was tell his brother, Simon (who would be renamed Peter). We're not that much different than Andrew! When we discover the truth of Jesus, we must tell everyone we can reach. *Disciples of Christ understand the urgency of the Gospel.* Some will listen, and some won't. Our goal is to point as many people to Jesus as we can.

Read John 1:35–39 and discuss 1–2 of these questions:

7–10 minutes

- Scripture says the disciples spent the day with Jesus, and Andrew left saying he'd found the Messiah. What do you think they talked about?
There's no right answer because Scripture doesn't tell us. Jesus often blew people away with his interpretations and applications of Jewish Scripture, so it's possible he spent the afternoon teaching. Maybe he performed a miracle. Whatever happened, it left an impression on Andrew!
- At the beginning of this passage, Andrew and the other disciple were following John the Baptist. Then they left to follow Jesus. How do you think John felt about that?
John the Baptist came to point others toward Jesus. He was probably ecstatic that two of his disciples discovered the truth!
- How do you usually get to know people? How does that translate to your relationship with Jesus?
Answers will vary, but we usually get to know people by spending time with them, sharing experiences, listening to stories, supporting each other, etc. Same is true for Jesus! If we want to know him, we have to listen to and learn from him.



Say something like: To know who Jesus really is, you must spend time with him. Just like your friends, you can't get to know someone if you never talk to them. We can get to know Jesus through prayer, worship, and Bible study.

Read John 1:40–41 and discuss 1–2 of these questions:

7–10 minutes

- Andrew knew he had to go and tell his brother right away. Who is God calling you to share the Good News with right away?
Answers will vary but could include a family member, close friend, teammate, or neighbor. Be aware that some might need help discerning who they can share with. This is a good opportunity to remind students that we all have witnessing opportunities if we're willing to look.
- What's holding you back from telling others about Jesus?
Answers will vary, but fear is often the main thing that prevents us from sharing the Good News with others.



Say something like: The first thing Andrew did after being called by Jesus was go tell his brother he'd found the Messiah. He didn't waste a second before sharing this important discovery! When we find life-saving truth, we need to share it right away. Andrew knew how important it was to share Jesus with those he loved. Nothing should stop us from doing likewise.

FACILITATOR NOTE: If you have extra time, go through the next set of questions. If not, skip to the Connection section.

Read John 1:42 and discuss 1–2 of these questions:

7–10 minutes

- Why did Jesus change Peter's name right away?
Peter means "rock." Jesus knew that big things were ahead for Peter and, by changing his name, gave him a new purpose.
- How do you prepare to be changed when you go before Jesus in prayer or worship?
Answers will vary. Sometimes we want God to change things for us, but often God wants us to change. Prayer and worship are encounters with Jesus, and encounters with Jesus lead to personal change!
- What is a specific way Jesus has changed your life?
Answers will vary. Some might share tangible ways, like freedom from an addiction. Others may be more subtle—softened heart, deeper faith, etc. It's also possible students are still figuring this out!



Say something like: Encountering Jesus will change you. When Simon met Jesus, he would never be the same—from then on, he was Peter, the Rock. Anytime you go before Jesus—in prayer, worship, or meditation on his Word— expect to be changed by his miraculous grace.



CONNECT & APPLY

CONNECTION

5-7 minutes

Show your students how Scripture connects to their lives: Use the example below OR share a personal story of how you learned the importance of sharing Jesus with others.



Example: Penn Jillette is half of the world-renowned magician duo Penn and Teller. Along with his partner, Teller, Jillette has entertained millions worldwide with incredible magic tricks. Penn is a devout atheist, proclaiming his disbelief in God and disdain for religion regularly in interviews. However, he once told the story of a man who shared a Bible with him after a show and simply offered to share his faith. Jillette was impressed by the man's kind approach and offered these strong words:

If you believe that there's a heaven and hell and people could be going to hell or not getting eternal life or whatever, and you think that it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward...How much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that? If I believed beyond a shadow of a doubt that a truck was coming at you and you didn't believe it, and that truck was bearing down on you, there's a certain point where I tackle you. And this is more important than that.¹

- If you found the cure for cancer, wouldn't you want to share it with as many people as possible? How is sharing the Gospel similar or different?

Answers will vary. Hopefully, students will understand that the salvation offered by Jesus is as essential as powerful medicine. We're all bound for an eternal death, and Jesus is the only cure!

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

2-3 minutes

Disciples of Christ understand the urgency of the Gospel.

Use the *Mark of a Disciple* to reinforce the lesson and challenge students to apply it to their lives.

APPLY IT

5-10 minutes

When we encounter Jesus, we have the opportunity to learn about who he is. When we really know who Jesus is and his incredible love for us, we'll be changed forever! Who do you know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus? How can you share the Gospel with that person?

Be specific:

- What are you going to do?
- When are you going to do it?
- Is there someone who can keep you accountable?



FACILITATOR NOTE: Allow students who are comfortable to share their plans for application. This may encourage or spark ideas for other students, plus add a level of accountability.



CLOSING

PRAYER

2-3 minutes

Take a moment to ask for prayer requests. Take time to let your students pray for each other's applications in the upcoming weeks. Spend some time praying that those of us changed by our time with Jesus will be bold enough to share essential truth with all those we can reach.

Write down any prayer requests mentioned and ask your students about them at your next meeting.

MEMORY VERSE

Send the memory verse graphic included in your download to your students later this week to keep the conversation going.

"Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed."

Romans 13:11 (ESV)

NOTES

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¹ Erin Roach, "Atheism: Penn Jillette Urges Evangelism," *Baptist Press* (Southern Baptist Convention, February 12, 2009).

