

Yesterday. Today. Forever.

Module: Telling The Story

Lesson 3: Living With Consistently Christ-Like Faith

Objectives:

- Students will learn about Jesus' example of living.
- Students will see that they can tell the story of God's love through Christ-like faith.
- Students will understand that Christ-like faith should be consistent.

Materials Needed

- ☐ 1 newspaper per 4 students (preferably all different copies)
- ☐ 2 copies of Appendix 1 (preferably each on a large sheet of paper or on a PowerPoint slide)
- ☐ Min. 2 pieces of paper per student
- ☐ 1 pen per student

Minds On

Think / pair / share: Ask students this question, “Who is the biggest influence in your life and why?” Have them come up with their answer for 30 sec. Then have them partner with another person and share their answer. Each student should be prepared to share their partner’s answer with the larger group. After students have shared with their partner, gather the large group together and have 3-4 students give their partner’s answer.

Prompt: The word Christian means little Christ. People saw that the early disciples were trying to copy the life of Jesus and so they coined this expression. It caught on and continued to be used. So when we call people Christians, we are saying that they are people trying to be like Jesus. In their thoughts, in their actions and in their attitudes they should be like Jesus. It needs to be a consistent Christ-like faith.

Have everyone stand in a circle facing inwards. Then pick one person and send them out of the room. While they are out of the room, appoint a 'leader'. This person is the one who will lead the room in various movements (eg stamping feet, spinning, standing on one foot, dancing, singing, etc). Everyone else in the circle must mimic the leader, without giving away who the leader is. Bring the person back into the room, and commence the game. The aim of the game is for the person who was sent out of the room to guess who the leader is. They get three chances to guess it right. The leader then becomes the 'guesser' and the next round starts. Play as many rounds as you feel appropriate.

Prompt: Whether we realize it or not, we tend to follow other people. Maybe they wear. How they act. What they think. We are going to be looking at the issue of Christ-like faith today. Jesus influenced everyone around him. He challenges his followers to have that kind of influence. But what does that really look like for us?

Action

Divide students into four even groups. Assign each group one of the following passages: Matthew 5:48, Leviticus 11:45, Ephesians 1:1-2 and John 13:13-17. In those groups, they are to list what characteristics of Jesus are shown in their assigned passage. Each person will need to know their group's answer.

Afterwards, have students assign themselves a number from 1 to however many there are in that group in order. Then have all the numbers gather together (e.g. all 1s, all 2s, etc.) The new groups will each compile their own list of the characteristics as listed in the passage. Then give each group a newspaper. They will choose five stories that reflect the character of Jesus. If they can't find anything then suggest they find a story where someone could have acted differently to be more like Jesus. Each group will present their articles and explanations to the larger group.

Prompt: Seeing who Jesus is and seeing his characteristics in others is sometimes easier than seeing how we can live it out. Sometimes we're not sure where to start. Let's begin with a passage that the Apostle Paul wrote.

Show a copy of Appendix 1. Choose one student to write the word "love" in the blank spaces. Have the large group read it out loud together. Ask students to paraphrase this passage and invite 2-3 answers.

Show the second copy of Appendix 1. Choose another student to write the word "God" in the blank spaces. Have the large group read it out loud together. Ask students whether this version makes sense and allow the group to discuss it.

Have students pair up with a partner. This time, ask them to insert their own name in the blank spaces. Students will ask their partner which parts of that statement are most true and which parts are the hardest. If appropriate, invite students to pray for each other in becoming more like Jesus in the manner this passage suggests.

Consolidate/Debrief

Prompt: The way we live our life should be consistently like Jesus. Jesus lived a life that tells the story of Grace and Love. One way to reflect back to see if we're living like Jesus is to insert our names into that passage and see if that statement is true. We are called to have that same contagiously active loving faith that He had.

Invite students choose a place in the room by themselves with a piece of paper and pen. Ask them to write a letter to someone who is an important part of their life and why. Afterwards, challenge students to express that gratitude to that person either by sharing that letter or in another way.

Close in prayer.

Appendix 1

_____ is patient; _____ is kind; _____ is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NRSV)