

# **I Dare You**

**Module Title: Unbreakable**

**Lesson 5: Close to Jesus?**

## **Objectives:**

Students will

- Explore the various groups of disciples who followed Jesus
- Be challenged to consider their level of intimacy with Christ
- Be challenged to consider what it will take to grow in intimacy with Christ

## **Materials Needed**

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Pens or pencils
- ☐ Copies of “Jesus and His Disciples” Chart

## **Minds On**

Play Broken Telephone. Rather than make the shape a circle however, have students stand in a spiral, some being close to the “leader” or “it”. Those at the end of the line, or outside of the spiral will be much further away from “it”. Come up with a few funny phrases or scripture verses to use as the telephone message. Have students at the end of the line repeat what they heard the message as being.

Say something like: When we are close to Jesus, it’s much easier to hear His word clearly and understand its meaning. We can know what our calling is because we’re in tune with Him when we are intimately close to Him. However, if we are not close to Jesus, it’s much more difficult to grasp hold of the message, to hear Him clearly, and we often get the message confused or start listening to messages that are not from God.

## **Action**

Say something like: We’ve spent some time examining how we can build up our intimacy with Christ through our relationships with others. However, those other people in our lives are not ultimately responsible for our relationship with God; that’s between us and God. Some of you may feel really close to God, that your life’s really on track with Him and you feel like you’re constantly growing in your faith as you seek after Him. Others of you may feel like you’ve kind of lost touch with God. You’ve lost your passion for Him and His work, and you may feel like you’re not sure how to discern when He’s speaking to you or what His will is for your life. Others of you may feel like you really aren’t sure how to think about yourself in relation to God in a sense of whether you’re close to Him or further away.

There will always be people who are very close to Jesus and others who feel further away, but we are all followers of Christ and can all be involved in Christ’s ministry. When Jesus was on earth, he had a large following, but this following was distinguished by three separate groups. We’re going to examine these groups today.

In small groups, have students complete the “Jesus and His Disciples” chart about the 72, the 12 and the 3. Give students about 20 minutes to read the passages and complete the chart.

When students have finished, gather together in a large group again and discuss everyone's answers. Spend time focusing on the characteristics of each group that apply to us today. For example, the 72 were actively engaged in Christ's work, performing miracles and healing and working with the poor, but they weren't intimately connected with Christ. They received instruction from Him but did not know the inner working of His life and ministry. There was a distance there and they wouldn't be aware of all of his teachings or hear the explanations of the confusing parables.

For the 12, they were privy to most of Jesus' actions, they experienced his reactions to the merchants in the Temple, they saw His anguish in the Garden, they heard His teachings and were given explanations, and they saw Jesus walk on water. These disciples were chosen by Jesus to be His companions, His friends. They were with Jesus constantly for three years in His ministry but they still got the message confused once in a while. They didn't always get what He was talking about or what this Kingdom of God was all about.

Then there were the three. These three experienced everything Jesus did and said and were also given special opportunities to be with Jesus when no one else was. They experienced the transfiguration, they would go off and pray with Jesus when no one else came, and were allowed to know who would betray Him. These men were the closest friends of Christ while he was on earth.

## **Consolidate/Debrief**

After talking about the characteristics of each group, summarize by saying something like:

Each of these groups has unique characteristics that I'm sure many of us can relate to. I'm sure there are times when you feel like you just want to be involved in God's work and you do a great job of it but can lose touch with Christ. Other times we may feel like we are Christ's friend, we feel that we know Him, what He stands for, what He wants for our lives, but some things still don't make sense. Other times we may feel extremely close to Christ and totally in tune with what He's saying to us, how His parables affect our lives and how we can carry on His ministry.

Where would you put yourself in relation to these three groups today? Are you part of the 72, the 12 or the 3?

What can you do to become closer to Christ? How can you move from where you are to where you'd like to be?

Give students some time to think about and discuss these questions and come up with a few ways they can move from one group to another. Then have them gather in pairs or small groups to pray about these steps.

