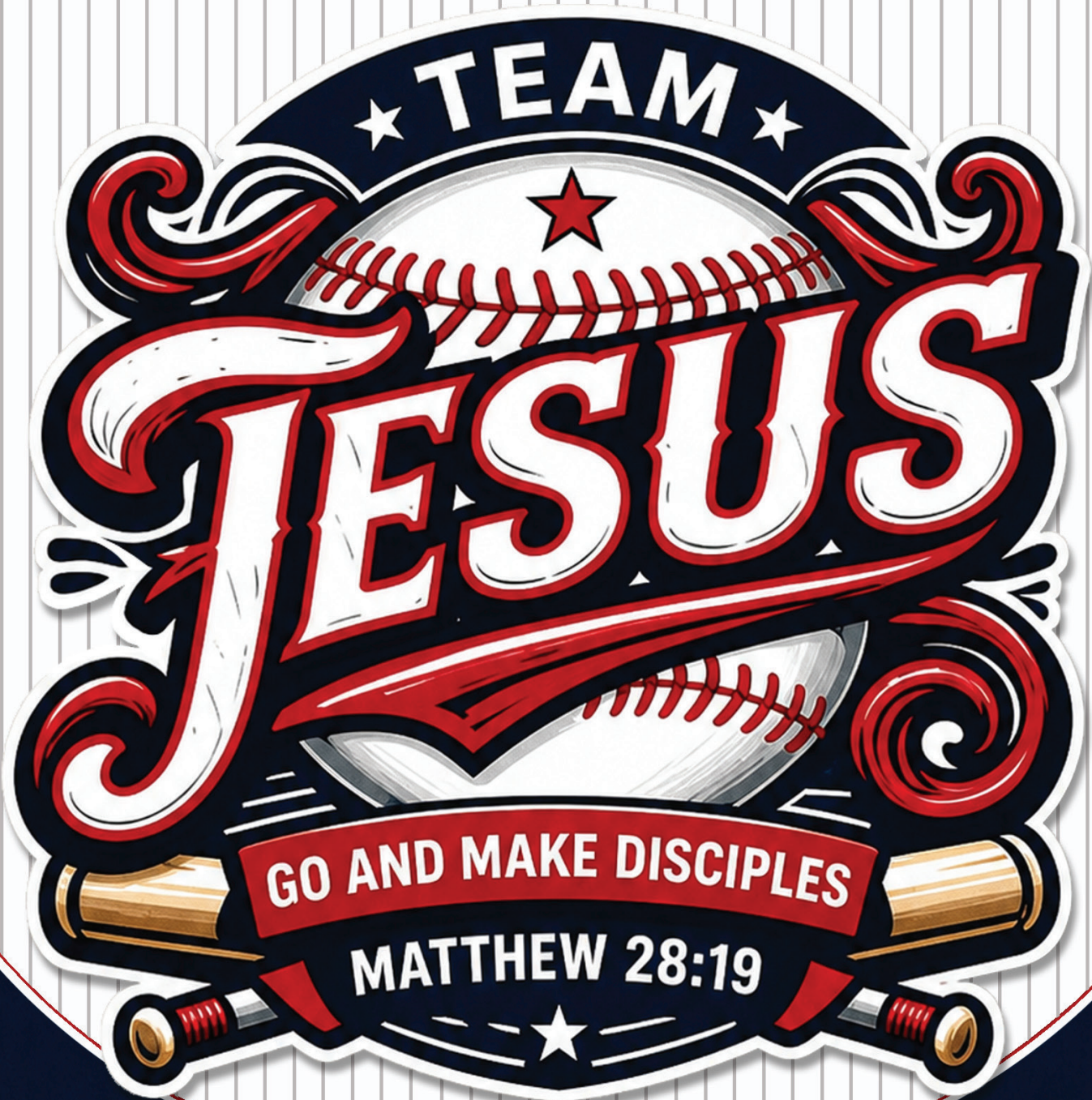


DISCIPLESHIP WITH



FIRST CHURCH

OPEN BIBLE

Family Life Resources



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Family Life Resources

We understand the challenges of busy schedules at home, which is why we offer resources that support you and your family which are easy to use, relevant and most importantly honor God. We pray these resources for your home along with the classes and services at First Church make an eternal difference in the lives of families like yours.

Blessings,
First Church Open Bible

Colossians 2:6,7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

MOST BIBLE VERSES IN THIS BOOKLET ARE QUOTED FROM THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

Discipleship with Team Jesus

based on the Gospel of Mark

VBS at First Church was a great week with Team Jesus!

We learned about being **Chosen, Trained,** and **Sent**. Now we want to dig deeper into what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus.

The kids will go through a nine-week **Discipleship Training Camp**.

This family resource covers 4 Lessons on **Discipleship for Families**. Our prayer is that First Church families become the training ground for Team Jesus!

LESSON 1

Being on Team Jesus

Parent's Passage: Mark 3:13-15 and 31-35

Key Verse: Mark 3:13

"Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to Himself those he wanted, and they came to Him."

"Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to Himself those He wanted, and they came to Him. He appointed 12 that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach ..." -Mark 3:13

Jesus chose His 12 disciples - He called each of them by name. His purpose was to spend time with them and develop a personal relationship with each of them. He taught them about the Kingdom of Heaven and how to live a life that pleased God.

The religious leaders of that time were intent on placing a yoke of bondage on the people of God. Jesus came to bring healing and hope to these oppressed people.

He was ushering in a new way (Mark 2:19-22). To help the disciples understand the principles of the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus spent time with them. Mark chapters 4,5 and 6 describe how Jesus spent day after day with His disciples. Through His words and actions, Jesus taught about the Father's love and His character.

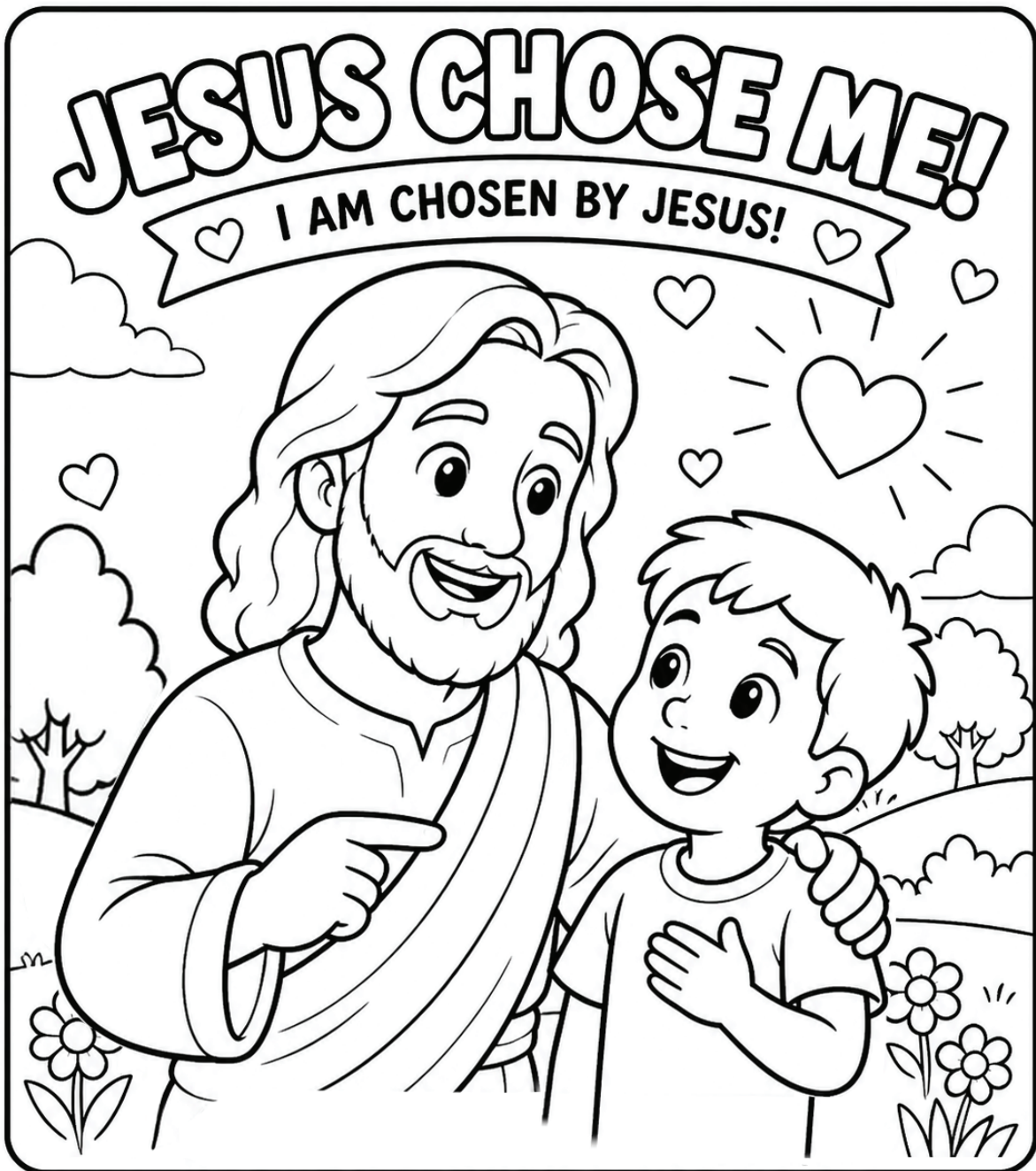
In a similar way, when we choose to be followers of Jesus, we must also spend time with Him. He desires to be with us as well. The kingdom of God is about spending time together, and

learning about the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We do this by attending church, studying the Bible, and taking time to worship and pray.

As a family, take inventory of how you spend time with Jesus. Make a list of ways your family chooses to follow Jesus, such as praying, reading the Bible, serving others or attending church.

Jesus desires to be close to us. As we spend time with Him growing in His teachings, we will become strong in spiritual understanding and faith.

Coloring Activity



LESSON 2

Jesus' Playbook

Parent's Passage: Mark 4

Key Verse: Mark 4:2-3a

"He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: 'Listen!'"

"Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: 'Listen!'" -Mark 4:1-3a

Jesus has made the shore along the lake into an arena! He announces, ***"Listen!"***, then he begins telling stories about the kingdom that contain lessons the people need to hear.

The lessons in Mark four were directly for his audience of farmers.

The lessons were centered around sewing seeds and growing plants. Later as he was explaining the parables to his disciple, he said,

"The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you." -Mark 4:11

This scene reminds me of a large sporting event. The crowd has gathered, the announcement has been made, the event unfolds, and then the team goes to the locker room for a huddle.

The coach gives them specific instructions and encouragement.

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Then they go back to the arena to face the crowds.

This is the pattern for **Team Jesus**. He speaks and ministers to the crowds and then pulls his disciples aside for a private lesson and personal encouragement. When we are on team Jesus, we need to pay attention to his personal words of encouragement between the big events.

How does this look? Here are a few suggestions for being an effective player:

- **GET TO KNOW JESUS BY READING HIS STORIES**
(In the Gospels)
- **COME TO THE ARENA FOR THE EVENTS**
(Be in Church)
- **SPEND TIME LISTENING TO HIM**
(In Personal Devotions)
- **GET IN THE HUDDLE WITH HIS DISCIPLES**
(In Life Groups)

Family Activity

Go and Make Disciples!

Gather around the table with a few Bibles. Help your family find and read the following verses. Talk together about how God has prepared us for His Team.

"... for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose." (Philippians 2:13)

"Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." (John 15:4)

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (Deuteronomy 31:8)

LESSON 3

Service and Joy

Parent's Passage: Philippians 2:5-7

Key Verse: Mark 8:34

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

What do you think of when you hear the title, "servant?" Is it someone who does dirty work like cleaning toilets? Do they stay after the meal to do dishes while others leave the table to have fun somewhere else? Often in our society, a servant is thought of as less than. What they do might be important, but most do not want to volunteer to take their place. Often, they're even ignored and unnoticed.

Jesus's view, though, is the exact opposite (as it often is) from our society's view. In the book of Matthew 20:26,28, Jesus told his disciples - his closest friends - ***"... whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant ... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve ..."***

Beware of your expectations, though! Maybe you've volunteered to help a neighbor and expected it to take only a half an hour, but it takes much longer. Or maybe you think you're really great at one task, but you're asked to do another. Do you get frustrated or disappointed? Perhaps, but this is where servanthood takes work - and I'm not just talking about the task you're doing - but the work you need to do in yourselves.

The next time you're disappointed or frustrated by serving others, here are some good questions to ask yourself: Am I feeling this way because of my expectations?

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Is my heart in serving or is it in what I want or expect?

***"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.
Rather, in humility value others above yourselves."***

-Philippians 2:3

Take heart, though! Serving might not seem fun on the surface, but Jesus wants us to be joyful - which means that we have peace and contentment even when we're doing something that we might not like.

***"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and
that your joy may be complete"*** -John 15:11

Serving others with joy and humility takes practice. Look for those opportunities where you might serve someone else (and if you can do it without anyone noticing - that's even better!)

***"Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will
reward you."*** -Matthew 6:4

Remember, that it might not seem like it's a fun thing to do, but this is where practicing putting aside what you want for a period of time so that you can help someone with what they want or need can prepare you for whatever next big thing Jesus might have prepared for you. And like our key verse says, ***"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."***

Family Prayer

Pray together as a family, "Lord please give me wisdom to recognize areas where I can serve others. Help me to set aside my expectations and my ways so that I can meet your expectations and follow your ways better. Help me to practice humility while I continue to find joy in following You and reading Your Word! In Jesus name, Amen."

LESSON 4

Making Disciples

Parent's Passage: Matthew 28

Key Verse: Matthew 28:19

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ..."

While Jesus lived on the earth, He chose His friends. He personally selected the 12 to whom He would live day to day with. The Bible talks about them traveling together, finding places to sleep together, eating together - Jesus lived His life with these men.

While they lived their day to day lives, He taught them. He showed them God's love and helped them understand Heaven and God by telling them stories that made sense to them. The 12 disciples weren't the only recipients of God's teaching, but they were the closest to Jesus. They got to hear and see things that others may not have.

We too, are called to make disciples! Like Jesus, there will be many that could be influenced by what we teach or the way we live. Look to those people that are close to you - and if you don't have people close to you already, then find them! Teaching the Bible and helping others understand how much God loves us takes relationships. For example, Jesus built relationships with his 12 disciples. Jesus commands us:

Therefore go - "Therefore" is a word used to connect two ideas or thoughts. In the verse before, Jesus assured us that He is Lord: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

With that in mind, He has the authority to command and the first word of His command is to "go." Just as He did during His lifetime, He wants us to move and find our disciples!

You might travel to a different country, or maybe you just travel across the hall to your family member.

And make disciples - Jesus does not want us to keep to ourselves, but is calling us to teach others. How you live your life and treat others can teach those close to you about God's love. Here are a few examples:

- We can say what would be pleasing to God, *"A gentle answer turns away wrath"* (Proverbs 15:1) or *"Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."* (Proverbs 16:24).
- We can show others God's love by showing compassion: *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."* (Ephesians 4:32)
- We can help when and where we're able (without complaining!): *"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you"* (Matt. 7:12)
- We can share how God has been good to us: *"I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which is to be praised,..."* Isaiah 63:7

Of all nations - Does this say to disciple only people that have a certain skin color? Or should we just disciple people that speak a certain way? Or maybe we only disciple people that are nearby ... if they look nice ... if they live a certain way? NO! Jesus makes no exceptions here! He tells us, all nations, which is all people. No exceptions.

Baptizing them - Baptism does not save a sinner. But for those who choose to become a disciple of God, this can be a way for them to worship the Lord. It's an obedient step that gives others an outward sign that they are allowing their old ways to be buried, as Jesus was also buried in the tomb, only to rise again to a new life. Baptism might even begin a new believer's journey to "go and make disciples" because it allows them that first step to share their faith with others.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit - This is the whole point! This is why we want to follow Jesus's last command and it's the only way we can follow it. **Now Go!**



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