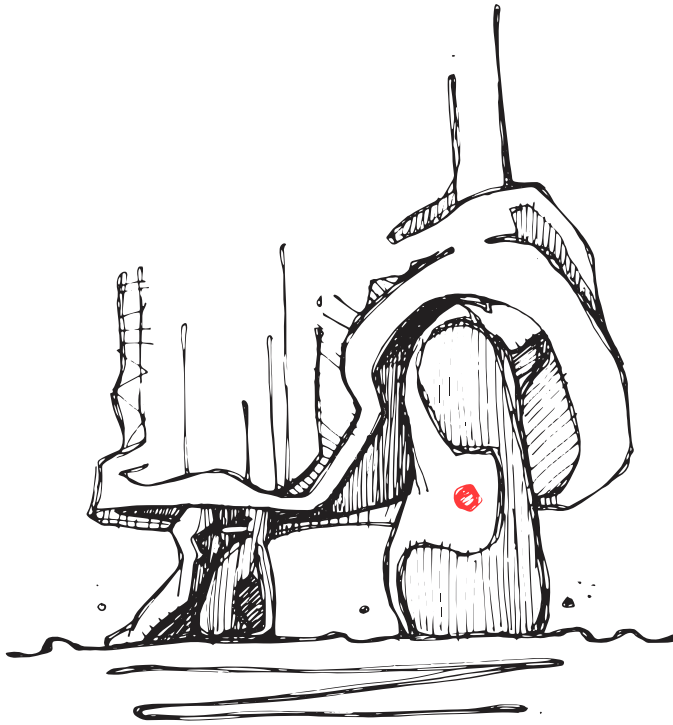


DISCIPLESHIP INSTITUTE

2020



The Cost of Discipleship

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One Park Street, Boston, MA 02108
www.parkstreet.org

Content written by: **Kris Perkins**
Booklet design: **Julie Boyd**

SESSION ONE

Faith

TEACHING POINT: WE ACKNOWLEDGE JESUS AS LORD OF OUR LIVES IF WE ARE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST.

“The reason some of us are such poor examples of Christianity is that we have failed to recognize that Christ is almighty. We must continually focus and firmly place our faith in Jesus Christ — not a ‘prayer meeting’ Jesus Christ, or a ‘book’ Jesus Christ, but the New Testament Jesus Christ, who is God incarnate and who ought to strike us dead at his feet.” ~ Oswald Chambers

MARK 8:27–30

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

OPENING CONVERSATION

Share with each other

- Your name
- Where you live
- What you do
- How long you have been attending Park Street
- Why you decided to participate in LDI this year

MICRO-TEACHING

DISCUSSION

What does it mean to identify Jesus as Messiah? As Lord? Are they different?

How did you view Jesus before you were a Christian? Why?

If you have confessed Jesus as your Lord and Savior, what led you to do so?

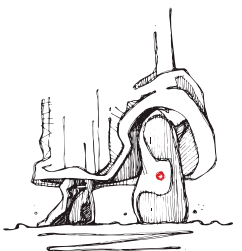
What aspect(s) of Jesus’ identity/character most shapes the way in which you live out your life?

What aspect(s) of Jesus’ character, identity, power as revealed in scripture do you find most challenging to trust? Why?

What areas of the Lordship of Christ might be the greatest help for you to reflect upon and consider over the next six or seven weeks together as you consider where you are in life as a disciple of Christ?

PRAYER

Share prayer requests and close in prayer as a group.



SESSION TWO

Pursuit

TEACHING POINT: WE PURSUE JESUS, ABANDONING ALL ELSE IF WE ARE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST.

“The great aim of the Holy Spirit is to get us abandoned to God. Abandon is of more value than personal holiness. What is needed in spiritual matters is reckless abandonment to the Lord Jesus Christ, reckless and uncalculating abandonment, with no reserve anywhere about it. No man can abandon to Jesus Christ without amazing humiliation to his own self-importance.” ~Oswald Chambers

MARK 8:31–38

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

DISCUSSION

Reflect together as a group on Mark 8:31–38. What is at the essence of discipleship according to this passage? Push each other on the meaning behind the Christians terms that may be utilized to answer this question.

Is being a disciple of Jesus a hard/challenging life for you? Is it supposed to be hard? If it is not hard, are you truly a disciple of Jesus following him?

Can you share something that you have given up for Jesus Christ? Why/How did you decide to give that up? What difference has that made?

Conversely is there something that you choose to do that in some ways you wish you did not, but you choose to do it out of obedience to Christ? How does that impact you?

What value have you found in your life of discipleship?

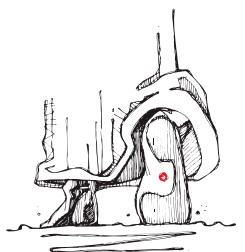
What is the hardest thing for you to abandon for Christ? If there was one area of your life that you hold onto too much or need to turn over to Christ what might that be?

Who serves as a model of modern day discipleship for you? Why?

What tempts you or leads you into feeling ashamed about your faith in Christ?

PRAYER

Share prayer requests and close in prayer as a group.



TEACHING POINT: WE DEEPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF JESUS IF WE ARE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST.

“When God by his Spirit through his Word gives you a clear vision of his will, you must walk in the light of that vision. Our tendency is to lie back and bask in the memory of the wonderful experience we had when God revealed his will to us. But if a New Testament standard is revealed to us by the Light of God, and we don’t try to measure up or even feel inclined to do so, then we begin to backslide. You can never be the same after the unveiling of a truth. That moment marks you as one who either continues on with even more devotion as a disciple of Jesus Christ, or one who turns to go back as a deserter.” ~Oswald Chambers

MARK 9:1–10

And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.” After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters — one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what “rising from the dead” meant.

DISCUSSION

Can you share points in your life in which you gained a greater understanding of who Christ is in your life after you had become a Christian?

How would you describe your spiritual life now? Growing? Stagnant? Vibrant? Struggling? Barely holding on? Why?

Has spiritual growth come about for you more often through life revelation and circumstance or through the incorporation of spiritual practices into your life?

Have there been times in your life where you were not growing spiritually and you decided to do something about it? What did you do? Did it make a difference? Share.

How has your stage in life effected the way in which you have viewed Christ/lived for Christ?

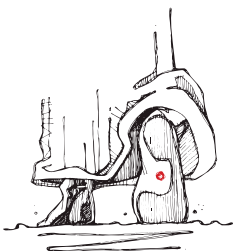
What scripture passages have become seminal for you in the way you live out your life for Christ? How or why did they become important to you?

How does the study and use of scripture relate to your life as a disciple of Christ?

Are there new commitments you are considering in your life related to the study of scripture or other spiritual practices towards deepening your understanding and relationship to Jesus as a disciple of Christ?

PRAYER

Share prayer requests and close in prayer as a group.



TEACHING POINT: WE PRAY FERVENTLY IF WE ARE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST.

“So many of us limit our praying because we are not reckless in our confidence in God. In the eyes of those who do not know God, it is madness to trust Him, but when we pray in the Holy Ghost, we begin to realize the resources of God. God brings his marvels to pass in lives by means of prayer, and the prayers of the saints are part of his programme.” ~ Oswald Chambers

MARK 9:17–29

A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.”

“You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.”

So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?”

“From childhood,” he answered. “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”

“If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”

The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”

He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”

DISCUSSION

Share with your group what your prayer life is like right now? Practices, struggles, joys or lament about it.

Why do you pray?

How do you view prayer as a part of life as a disciple of Christ?

How much does your prayer life reflect your personality? Is that good or bad?

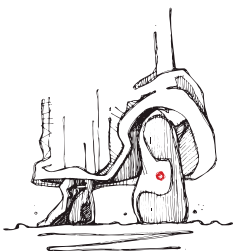
At what point in the past would you consider your prayer life strong. Why? Lessons that come out of that?

Do you expect God to answer your petitions? How have these expectations been met in the past? Do you have an example when he has or when he has not which you can share with the group? What is your view now about what transpired in that example?

Are there new commitments you are considering or need to make in relationship to your prayer life?

PRAYER

Share prayer requests and close in prayer as a group.



SESSION FIVE

Humility

TEACHING POINT: WE CHOOSE TO SERVE OTHERS BEFORE OURSELVES IF WE ARE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST.

“Humility is the one stamp of a saint. Jesus Christ presented humility as a description of what we shall be unconsciously when we have become rightly related to God and rightly centered in Jesus Christ.” ~ Oswald Chambers

MARK 9:33–37

They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

MARK 10:35–45

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.”

“What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.”

“You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”

“We can,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with,

but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.”

When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

MICRO-TEACHING

DISCUSSION

What thoughts emerge about humility and servanthood from Mark 9:33-37, 10:35-45?

How is humility/servanthood central to the life of a disciple of Christ?

How does lack of humility hinder a person’s relationship with Christ?

In what aspects of life is your pride most evident? How do you address it?

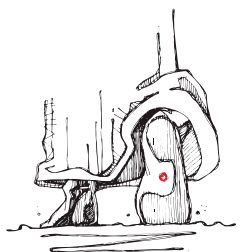
Is pride more evident in your life in connection with people who are close to you or with those whom you do not necessarily have a relationship? Why is that?

How do you assess your own sense of humility? If you are in a situation knowing that you need to be humble, attempting to be humble... are you actually humble? What do you make of this?

Are there new commitments you are considering or need to make in relationship to humility and pride?

PRAYER

Share prayer requests and close in prayer as a group.



SESSION SIX

Holiness

TEACHING POINT: WE REJECT SIN IF WE ARE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST.

“Sin is a disposition of self-love that obeys every temptation to its own lordship. Sin is literally self-centered rule, a disposition which rules itself apart from God. If sin rules in me, the life of God will be killed in me; if God rules in me, sin will be killed in me, there is no possible ultimate than that.” ~ Oswald Chambers

MARK 9:42-50

“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea.

If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched. Everyone will be salted with fire.

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.”

DISCUSSION

Talk about the imagery Jesus utilizes and the counsel he offers in regard to sin in Mark 9:42-50. How does the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5) expand on this passage and the meaning behind it? What does this language convey?

What is at the root of sin? What drives us to sin?

Do you have an example you can share from the past where sin had mastery over you? How did you come to realize that? Was it destructive in some way to your life? What did you do?

What is attractive or inviting to you about holiness and its pursuit in your life?

What is the root of holiness, holy living? What drives us into holiness?

How do you handle temptation? Is it realistic to just avoid things which tempt you?

What counsel can you give to those in our group about how to untangle from sin and embrace holiness?

Are there new commitments you are considering or need to make in relationship to sin and holiness?

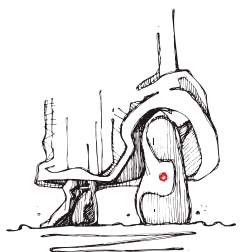
CLOSING DISCUSSION

What has been meaningful about LDI 2020 to you?

Are there ways your life as a disciple of Christ may change or deepen in the days following LDI 2020

PRAYER

Share prayer requests and close in prayer as a group.





PARK STREET CHURCH
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