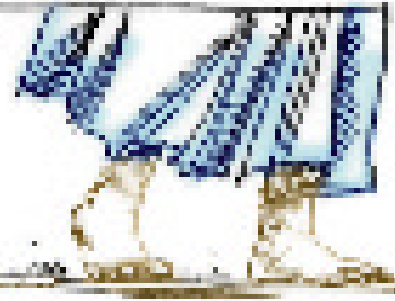


# Learning from Jesus "Follow Me."

...learning to live where the load is light



Lesson 15 / Page 1

## Loving Our Lord

1. Once we take on the yoke of Christ and enter into His discipleship training, we can become fearful. God's followers have always faced the challenge of trusting God in the face of tremendous opposition and overwhelming fears. Meditate on Isaiah 41:9-13. Read the words of the prophet Isaiah and write out below what encourages you from this passage. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. In lesson 13 we read that God's power is our own shield (I Peter 1:5). Paul writes in Romans that God is for us (Romans 8:31). What is it that is battling to fill your mind with fear today? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Take a few moments and read through the Isaiah passage again, training your mind to think on what is true. Is what you fear able to diminish who God is? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

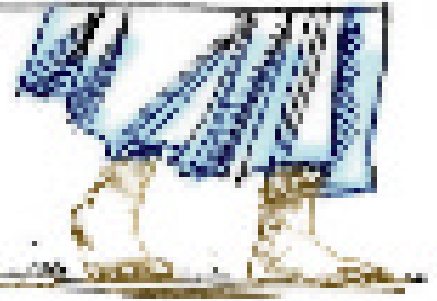
## Learning His Word

Simon Peter and his fellow apostles saw Jesus perform miracles, they listened to Him pray and saw His devotion to the Father, and they witnessed His unending compassion for the needy crowds. In this lesson, we will continue to follow Peter's experience with Jesus and learn along with him what it means to be a disciple.

1. Read Mark 6:6-12. Jesus sent his apostles out to teach in the villages and call people to repentance.
  - a. What instructions did He give them? (For more details you can read the account in Matthew 10.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What did they do when they went out? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What instructions from Jesus seem interesting to you and why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Lesson 15 / Page 2

2. Jesus continued teaching and preaching in the towns of Galilee while the twelve were out preaching and healing. Read Mark 6:14-29. Summarize what else was happening at this time. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The apostles returned and began reporting to Jesus what happened on their mission. Read Mark 6:30-31 along with Matthew 14:13. Jesus was dealing with a great loss while at the same time hearing a great report from the twelve. Think about the range of emotion Jesus must've been feeling. Can you relate? In what way?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did Jesus want to get away with His apostles (see Mark 6:31)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Read Mark 6:32-34. Where did they go and what happened when they arrived? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- a. How did Jesus respond to this interruption of plans? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. Why was Jesus moved with compassion? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Jesus and the apostles were tired, but Jesus' compassion gave Him strength to continue to serve. Read what happens next in Mark 6:35-44.
  - a. What plan did the disciples come up with? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What was Jesus' plan? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. How did it turn out? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. After this miraculous feeding, what did Jesus *make* the disciples do (see Mark 6:45 and Matthew 14:22-23)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Learning from Jesus "Follow Me."

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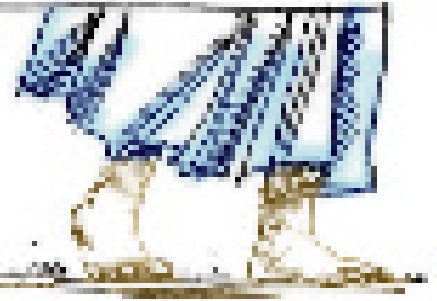


Lesson 15 / Page 3

- a. What was Jesus doing while they rowed against the strong tide and wind? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Read on in Matthew 14:25-34. Why were the disciples so afraid? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. How did Jesus calm their fears? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Next we get a glimpse of Simon Peter's next lesson from Jesus about faith. Review what happens and briefly summarize.
- a. What caused Peter to sink? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How does fear affect your faith? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Did Jesus punish Peter for his fear? What happened? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. John Ortberg, in his book If You Want to Walk on Water You've Got to Get Out of the Boat, (Zondervan, 2001) says this: "I believe the reason God says, 'fear not' so often is that fear will sink us faster than anything else. Fear disrupts faith and becomes the biggest obstacle to trusting and obeying God."
- a. With Mr. Ortberg's quote in mind, can you think of a way in which fear is an obstacle for you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How does Jesus' response to Peter (verse 31) encourage you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. In what way does this same verse challenge you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Peter grew through this experience. The next passage we will read continues on in the same 24 hour period we've been studying. Peter fails one test, but triumphantly passes another. Read John 6:25-59. Jesus is confronting a greedy crowd and teaching them the truth of Who He is. We won't take the time to dissect this account in this lesson, but listen carefully to what He is teaching keeping in mind that Simon Peter is listening intently. What is the core of Jesus' message as recorded in John 6:35-40? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Learning from Jesus "Follow Me."

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Lesson 15 / Page 4

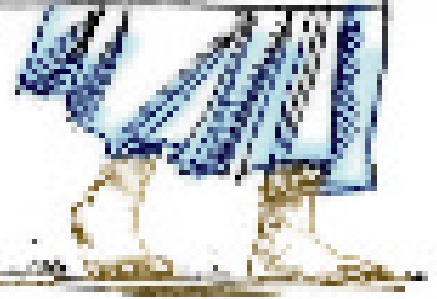
11. Jesus' teaching had become offensive, even to His own disciples. Read what happened in John 6:60-66 (remember Jesus had many disciples [*learners*] during His earthly ministry). What happened? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Jesus turns His attention to His twelve appointed messengers (the apostles). Read John 6:67-69. What does He ask them? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. We can't hear the tone of Jesus' question at this time, but we can see that the path of following Christ is narrowing. He knew His words of truth would scare some. What does He point out in verse 65?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How does Simon Peter answer Jesus' poignant question? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What was keeping Simon Peter there? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Do you see growth in Peter? What do you learn from his experience? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Living His Way

1. We don't want to learn from our failures, but often those are the times we learn the most about who we are and Who Jesus is. Do you have a personal experience you can share? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. At other times we resolve that there is no other place we'd rather be than at the side of the Holy One of God who has the words of eternal life. Can you remember a time when you felt like the minority for sticking with the truth while others walked away? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. We've read a lot of Scripture in this lesson, but keep in mind all of this happened in just a couple of days! What have you studied in this lesson that has challenged you personally? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Learning from Jesus "Follow Me."

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Lesson 15 / Page 5

4. Although Peter and the others could not completely understand what Jesus was teaching, they knew He spoke the truth and resolved to stay with him. Think about this observation from Stuart Briscoe:

"Peter and his friends had a golden opportunity to cut their losses, accept the fact that they had backed a loser, and go home sadder but wiser. Jesus even asked them if that was what they planned to do, but Peter came through. Not because he understood all that he was hearing, and certainly not because he agreed with everything that was going on. But he did know enough to know truth when he heard it and reality when he saw it. And that was enough for him.

It should be enough for us, too. As we confront the imponderables of life and face up to the questions that yield no easy answers, there should be enough comfort and conviction in the company of Jesus to hold us fast.

Today there is a pervasive loss of confidence in the truth of the Bible. Disillusionment with the church's leadership. Plummeting moral standards. The fatal attraction of fast-paced culture and the insistence on instant gratification. These factors have all contributed to dramatic fallout, minimal commitment, and marginal involvement in the contemporary church. We need unlikely pillars, unmovable anchors. Steadfast people. People who, like Peter, know their faults and failings, but also know where truth is found. When everyone around you is looking somewhere else for what they want to hear, where will you be?" (Stuart Briscoe, Brave Enough to Follow, Navpress 2004)

5. Do you have any observations you'd like to note from his comments? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Summary statement:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Memory verse challenge: John 6:35