

## PRECEPT

### MARK 3:16-19

<sup>16</sup> These are the twelve He appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), <sup>17</sup> James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, which means “sons of thunder”), <sup>18</sup> Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot <sup>19</sup> and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

## PROMISE

Knowing what discipleship is and becoming disciples are two different things. How can we, as imperfect people, become effective disciples of Christ when we still struggle with so many things in our lives? We're going to look at how Jesus called imperfect people to serve alongside him despite their imperfections. We will also discover that discipleship is truly an ongoing process that we will continue to mature in throughout our lifetime.

In many ways, the disciples were like you and me: imperfect. Throughout the Gospels, we see them misunderstand Jesus, vie for power and position, doubt, fear, and fail in many other ways. Yet Jesus uses these disciples to spread His message and build his church. This is great news for us, because Jesus isn't done using imperfect disciples! Even though we fail, he can still use us to spread His message and build His church today.

Mark 3:14-15 tells us, *“<sup>14</sup> He appointed twelve so that they would be with him and he could send them to preach <sup>15</sup> and to have authority to cast out demons.”* Jesus called His twelve disciples to primarily be with Him; the tasks are only secondary, which are to preach, to bless, inspire, heal others, and cast out demons. Often, we find ourselves not good enough because we are too focused on the task when Jesus primarily wants us to be with Him. Only by then can we make an impact when we stay with Him.

When calling His disciples, Jesus didn't look for followers who were well educated, who came from illustrious backgrounds, or who had the right social connections. Instead, He elevated those who were often overlooked by everyone around them, including themselves. *“What we know to be true about Jesus is that He chose ordinary and unrefined men to be his apostles. They were the commonest of the common. They were from rural areas, farmers, and fisherman. Christ purposely passed over the elite, aristocratic, and influential men of society and chose mostly the men from the dregs of society. That's how it has always been in God's economy. He exalts the humble and lays low those who are proud.”* (Allyson Holland) Jesus is looking for people who are willing to be with Him and follow Him. Being with Him means having a personal relationship with Him (acceptance of His love and forgiveness), daily conversation with Him (daily prayer and Bible reading), and becoming and living a life like Jesus, in words and in attitude.

Like the disciples, we all have a past that includes mistakes, hurts, blatant disobedience, and perhaps even illnesses or struggles that can leave us feeling like we are incapable of being used by God. But God's promise to us is that when we are in Christ, we are a new creation in his sight. God is developing this new self within us, and it is perfectly equipped to complete the ministry He has called each of us into through Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16). The experiences of our past uniquely equip us with empathy and compassion to come alongside others who have experienced similar struggles and hurts. When we trust God to use us in our imperfection, we allow Him the space to develop our physical and spiritual giftings over time.

## PRACTICE

**1. Imperfect Disciples.** How does learning about the humble beginnings of the disciples help us accept that God equips all His children to share the gospel and serve His kingdom and will here on earth?

**2. Imperfect Yet Impactful.** What did your life look like before you accepted Christ as your Saviour? Are there things in your background (before and after coming to Christ) that sometimes leave you feeling incapable of being used by God? Why do you think you feel that way?

## PRAYER

### I. Missionaries

- Pray for all missionaries all over the world as they share the Gospel to all nations.

### II. Volunteers

- Praise God for all our volunteers who selflessly & tirelessly commits their time to serve God & the church.

### III. Life Link Ministry

- Pray that this ministry will guide our visitors as they usher them to our worship services.

### IV. Life Kids Ministry

- Pray that our volunteers will always have joy as they teach children how to love God.

### V. Life Worship

- Pray that they will always honour and worship God in spirit and in truth both publicly and privately.

### VI. Worship Services

- Pray that we can invite more people to encounter Christ and know His love.

### VII. Members

- Pray for every member to prayerfully seek to demonstrate wisdom in everything that they do.