

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

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## **Chasing Hope: How Ordinary People Make Extraordinary Disciples**

### **Introduction to Chasing Hope**

These days, we normally think of Christians as people who go to church two or three times a month. Christians are people who serve the poor a few times a year, and donate a small percentage of their income to their church and other charities. Other than this, it can be hard to distinguish most Christians from people of any other religion - or people of no religion at all.

But there was a time when being a Christian meant something more radical. The first Christians left behind their ordinary lives to follow a Jewish rabbi named Jesus. These men and women freely surrendered their status quo for the movement Jesus started, even though it often led them to struggle and suffer for what they believed.

What do the lives of some of Jesus' first disciples teach us about authentic Christianity? What inspiration can we glean from those women and men who gave it all to follow Him? Each week we'll take an up-close, between-the-lines look at some of the everyday people who chose to follow Jesus, and we'll find ourselves in each story.

### **Session 1 - The Enthusiasts: Peter and Judas**

Judas and Peter were both enthusiastic and somewhat impulsive. Their stories demonstrate how enthusiasm can go very right...or very wrong depending upon the motivation that drives the enthusiasm.

#### **Judas – Day 1 and 2**

Read Matthew 26:1-25

1. a) Describe what generally took place in verses 6-13.

b) What were the reactions of the disciples?



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c) What was Jesus' motivation for allowing this to take place?

2. Now Read John 12:1-8.

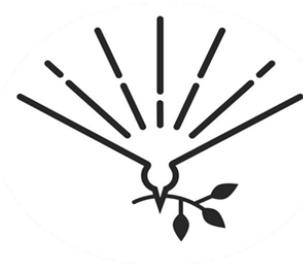
a) What do we learn about of Judas?

b) What do we learn about his motivation?

3. How did the motivation of Jesus and Judas differ in these passages, what were they focused on?

4. Can you give an example of when your motivation for something differed from Jesus' motivation? What were the results?

5. What did Jesus say was going to happen to Him? See also Matt. 20:17-19



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6. What did the chief priests and elders want to do to Jesus?

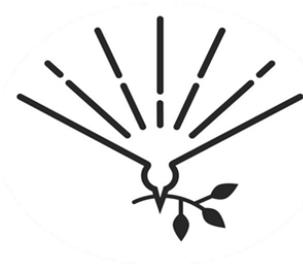
7. What does Judas do in verses 14-16?

8. Why do you think Judas betrayed Jesus?

9. When has your enthusiasm, driven by wrong motivation, led to problems? Can you give an example?

10. When we let our own selfish motivations drive our actions the results can lead to problems, even disaster. Then we feel bad about it. Read Matthew 27:1-10. How did Judas feel about what happened?

11. What did he do with the money?



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12. What ultimately happened to Judas?  
Was he able to recover? See also, Acts 1:18-19.

## **Peter – Day 3, 4 and 5**

1. What do we know about Peter from the following verses?

a) John 1:35-42

b) Luke 5:1-11

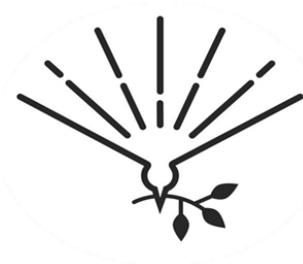
c) John 18:10-11

2. Read Matthew 14:22-33

a) Describe what happens.

b) What does this tell you about Peter?

3. How do all these verses show Peter's enthusiasm for Jesus?



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4. How would you compare your enthusiasm for Jesus to Peter's? If different, why do you think that is the case?

5. Read Matthew 16:13-20

a) Describe what happens.

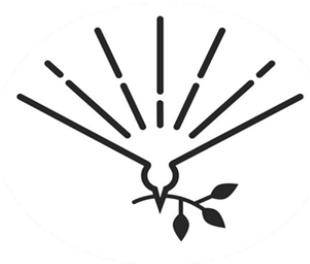
b) How do you think Peter must have felt after Jesus said those words to him?

6. Read Matthew 16:21-23

a) Describe what happens.

b) How do you think Peter must have felt after Jesus said those words to him?

7. This was a total change in direction for Peter, receiving praise and a blessing in one instance to being called Satan. What was the main cause of Jesus' harsh reaction to Peter? See verse 23.



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8. Can you share a time when your improper motivation led you to receive a rebuke from Jesus?

9. Read Matthew 26:31-35 and describe what happens.

10. Read Matthew 26:69-75 and describe what happens.

11. Now, from questions 9 and 10, compare and contrast

a) Peter's enthusiasm

b) Peter's motivation

12. Read John 21:1-17

a) Generally describe the scene.



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b) What does Jesus ask Peter three times?

c) How does Peter respond?

13. How can you ensure that your remorse for your mistakes leads you towards Jesus, like Peter and not away from Jesus, like Judas?

## Day 6

1. How is ENTHUSIASM a good thing when following Jesus?

2. How can it go wrong?

3. How can God use your enthusiasm to encourage others to trust in Him?