

# foundations

February 2010

Follow Me

Commitment

Being a Disciple





Come and  
join us for the

# CITYWIDE Family Hour

Every Sunday 9:30 am  
Singing & Bible Message

Followed by a relaxed  
Morning Tea & Coffee  
on the deck



Citywide Christian Fellowship  
Cnr. Progress & Mission Roads, White Rock. Ph. (07) 4036 0500

# Our *P* About Us Program

Citywide Christian Fellowship is a family-focused church with particular programs for children, teenagers, young adults, men, ladies and senior adults. Visitors are most welcome.

## Sunday Morning

Citywide Family Hour, with an all-age Sunday School program & Creche, commences at 9:30am with morning tea afterwards. This is followed by Worship & Communion at 11:00am.



## Teenagers & Young Adults

Helping teenagers through adolescence, and having them established as secure young adults, would have to be one of our greatest desires. As a result, we devote time and effort into running a practical and relevant program.



## Christian Women's Fellowship

Our Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF) gatherings are an important part of our life together as Christian women. Our desire is to find true fellowship as women, where we are able to meet with each other and know the Lord's direction for each of our lives.

## Mums & Kids

Mums & Kids consists of small groups of mothers and children meeting together in family homes. These times provide a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and a unique time of nurturing our little ones in the ways of the Lord.



## Senior Adults Over 50s

Our seniors gather together regularly to encourage and edify one another in the word and grace of God.





Very early in the ministry of Jesus, He began to invite people to follow Him and to become His disciples. The first record we have of Jesus using the words 'follow me' was to four fishermen: Simon who was called Peter, Andrew, James and John, who were all on the beach by the lake. Matthew 4:18. In Luke chapter five, we read of these men having returned from a night of fishing where they were washing and mending their nets.

### **Teaching the Crowds**

There was a crowd of people that had gathered by the lake that day, eager to hear what Jesus had to say. Jesus asked Peter if He could use his fishing boat. Peter pushed his boat out from the shore and from there, Jesus taught the crowds the word of God. A fisherman's boat became Jesus' pulpit. We learn very quickly that Jesus is a people's person.

### **Launch Into the Deep**

'When Jesus stopped speaking to the crowds, He turned to Peter and said to him, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net".' Luke 5:4-5.

### **The Result of Obedience**

The immediate result was amazing. The number of fish caught in the net was so great that the net began to break. They were fishing in the same spot with the same net - what was the difference? Obedience to the word of Jesus.

Peter then signalled to James and John to come and help, and when James and John's boat came they filled it with fish as well. The catch of fish was so great that both boats were beginning to sink. What a transformation, from discouragement to overflowing joy.

This experience had a deep impact on Peter. He knew this was no ordinary man that he was with. He knew that he was in the presence of the Lord from heaven. He began to experience a new emotion - from discouragement and disappointment to joy and now a deep commitment. He began to be convicted of his sin and said, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!' Luke 5:8.

## Facing Reality

A true encounter with the Lord Jesus will at some point in our life cause us to be convicted of our sinful life. He is holy and we are sinful. We have all sinned and we have all come short of God's glory. There is not one of us who could say that we have never acted

with pride, jealousy, greed, deceit, lust, lying or self-centredness to name a few. Compared to others we may be good, but, like Peter, when we are face to face with Jesus, we need to face reality and say, as Peter said, 'I am a sinful person.'

## Finding Our Purpose

A conviction and acknowledgement of our sin is essential if we are to be a follower of Jesus. He comes calling us to follow Him. How we respond will determine if we will become a disciple of Jesus or just one of the crowd. Jesus was about to lift Peter out of his own self-centred world into the will of God.

God had a purpose for Peter, but he needed to become a follower of Christ to fulfil the purpose God had planned for him. He was to become a disciple of Christ and his function as a disciple of Christ was to no longer catch fish, but to gather men and women into the kingdom of God. Likewise, for all of us there is a higher purpose. We must meet Christ and move into conviction



of sin, be cleansed by Him and obey His word to each of us. We can then fulfil the purpose that God has planned for us as a disciple of Christ.

## Follow Me

The next decision that Peter, Andrew, James and John made was the most challenging of all. They brought their biggest catch of fish ever witnessed to shore and were astonished at the enormous monetary value of the catch. It could have possibly set them up financially for the rest of their lives. However, Jesus saw beyond just money. He saw beyond this life and into the next. He knows that to live in the next life doing the will of God in heaven, we must do His will now on earth. The will of God for these men was to 'forsake all and follow Jesus'. Luke 5:11.

The call of discipleship is the same for each of us. However, we will be challenged with different aspects of the way we lived before we heard the call to follow – things we are called to leave behind. The things or lifestyle we trust in and depend on differs for each person. However, the one thing that does remain the same is that we



must put Jesus ahead of everything and everyone. When He says, 'forsake all and follow me', He is not calling us to forsake our accountability in life. He is not calling for us to stop providing for our families or to stop loving them. He is challenging us as to what we trust in. He is calling us to question and examine our motives, our drives and our fears. Our lives need aligning in a new way and it starts with putting Christ first, obeying His word to us and fulfilling God's purpose for our lives.

Jesus speaks quite a bit about being a disciple. As we continue in the *Life of Jesus* series we will encounter what Jesus says we must do to be His disciple.

-Bruce Mackay

# THE LIFE OF JESUS



# CYA

children **youth** parents

Sports

Volleyball

Activities

Basketball

Craft

Singing

Bible Talk

Football

Supper

BBQ Dinner

6:30pm to 9pm  
Friday nights

All inclusive: \$5 Adult, \$3 Students

Activities & supper only: \$2 Students

Children under 10 must be accompanied  
by a parent or guardian

Every Friday night except school holidays



# Jesus calls the fishermen

Luke 5

Peter was a fisherman. Every night, he and his friends would go out into the middle of the lake and fish all night with their nets until it was morning.

One day, after a night of fishing, Peter and his friends were cleaning their nets on the shore.

Nearby, a big crowd had gathered to hear Jesus teach about God.



Jesus finished speaking to the people at about lunch time. He then went over to Peter and said, 'Take your boat to the middle of the lake; let down your nets for a catch.'

Peter was surprised! 'Go fishing in the middle of the day?' he thought. That wasn't a good time to catch fish!



Peter said to Jesus, 'We worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, we will cast our nets again.' Soon their nets were so full, they were overflowing with fish and were starting to break. They called to their friends in another boat to help them. There were so many fish that the boats almost sank.

The fishermen were all amazed.



They had never caught so many fish! Jesus said to them, 'Don't be afraid. Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.'

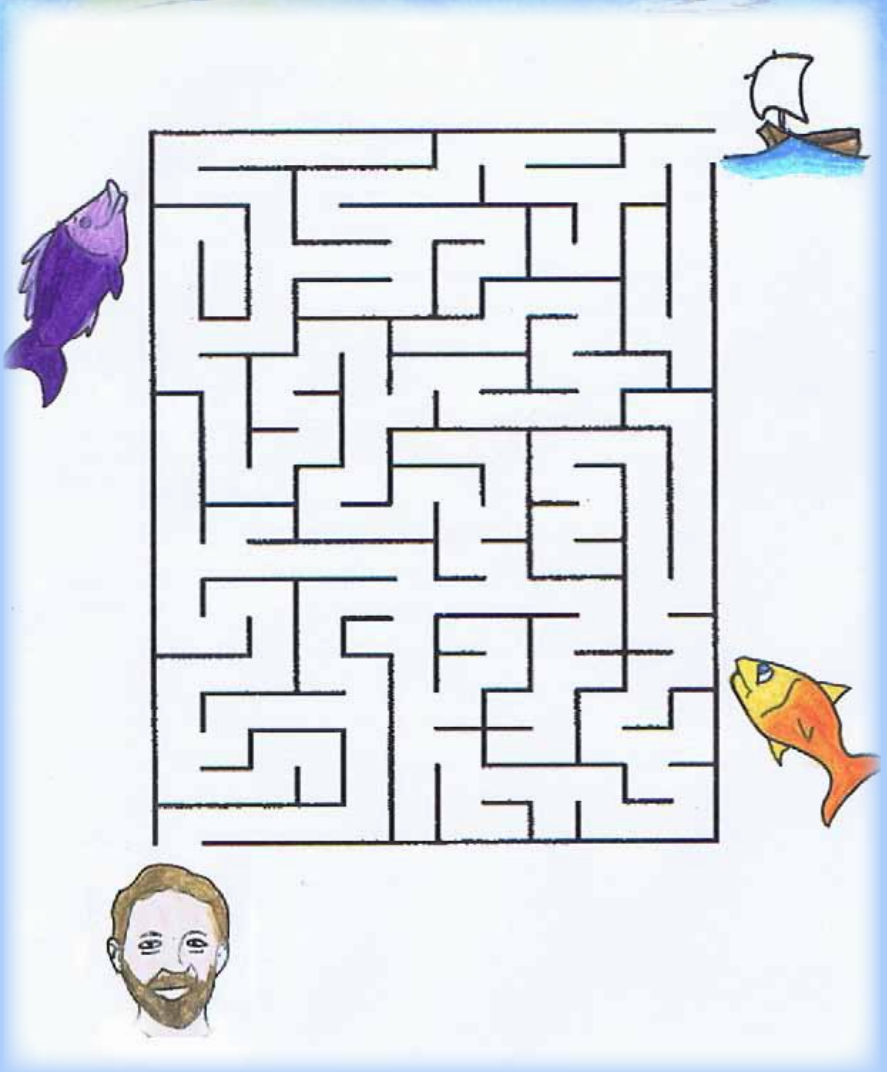
From then on, they gave up their work catching fish, because they were now to go into the world, the great sea of nations, to share with people the word of God and gather them into His kingdom.



Illustrations by Tabitha Hedger

# Kid's Korner

Help Jesus find His way through the maze to the fishermen's boat.





# Being a Disciple

A disciple is a follower of Jesus, but more so, they are a learner. As we follow Jesus, we learn how to grow and mature as sons of the Father. We learn to live as He lived and love as He loved. Obedience to His word allows Him to change us. By the power of His life, we can learn how to love and give.

We are not born disciples. Discipleship is a journey. We must make a choice to follow and be taught, just like the disciple, Peter.

## The Call of Discipleship

Peter was called by Jesus to be a disciple. 'And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." And they immediately left their nets, and followed Him.' Matthew 4:19-20.

'So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.' Luke 14:33

The cost of discipleship is not just leaving some things, but 'leaving all'.

## The Foundation of Discipleship

When Jesus first called His disciples to follow Him, inherent within His command was the question, 'Who do you say I am?' Jesus asks this question of every person. Our answer determines the way we live and build our lives. It is the foundation of our discipleship.

Jesus sends His servants as messengers to speak to us and proclaim the Father's plan to us. When Jesus proclaimed the word of God, many were unwilling to hear. Many considered Him to be nothing more than an illegitimate son. For Christians today, Jesus has committed His word to imperfect messengers. When they speak, we see all their failings and faults. How could they be speaking the word of God? It appears to be foolish, but the foolishness of God is greater than the wisdom of men. We reject the messenger to our peril.

It is impossible to know the Father without receiving the word of Jesus. Sometimes, we like to think that we can have a personal relationship with the Father and be His sons without the need to be obedient to the word of Christ which is revealed through His messengers. A relationship with God without hearing the messenger is all some

## The Purpose of Discipleship

After Peter denied Jesus, he had to be called back to the core purpose of discipleship. A disciple loves. Peter learnt that this was not within his natural capacity and he was grieved. Coming to the end of himself, he turned to the Lord. This was a fresh beginning in Peter's discipleship. As the love of God was poured into his heart by the Holy Spirit, he found the capacity to be a disciple.

people want. However, without a messenger, we will not hear about the place prepared for us in Christ's body, the church, or our purpose as sons of the Father.

When we follow Jesus, we find a process by which sin is removed and we are changed. We can receive the life of Jesus and learn how to love and give. However, this only works as we take up our cross and follow Him. If we follow Jesus, we know that every portion of suffering that touches our lives is bringing life and healing. We are blessed by His life, but Jesus does not promise us a life that is free from pain and suffering.

Like Peter, a disciple is submitted to the lordship of Christ. When we respond to the call of discipleship, we no longer just do what seems best for us or do whatever we wish. As a disciple, the way we live is completely determined by the needs of others. As we follow Jesus, we find the capacity to love and care for other people from the Lord Himself.

- Kristy Horton & Lania Lynch

# In the Kitchen

## Apple Crumble Cake

### Ingredients

- 220g butter, chopped, melted
- 4 eggs
- 2  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups self-raising flour
- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups caster sugar
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/3 cup custard powder
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 800g can apple pie fruit
- double thick cream, to serve

### Crumble Topping

- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup plain flour
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 75g butter, chilled, chopped

### Method

1. Preheat oven to 180 degrees. Grease 5cm deep, 20cm x 30cm (base) roasting dish or slab pan. Line base and sides with baking paper, allowing a 2cm overhang at both long ends.
2. Using an electric mixer, beat melted butter, eggs, flour, caster sugar, sour cream, custard powder and vanilla essence for 3 minutes or until pale and fluffy.
3. Pour half the mixture into prepared dish. Spread apple over mixture. Top with remaining mixture.
4. Make crumble topping: Combine flour, white sugar, baking powder and cinnamon in a bowl. Using your fingertips, rub butter into flour mixture until mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Sprinkle topping over cake mixture.
5. Bake cake for 1 hour to 1 hour 15 minutes or until skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Serve warm with cream.



# Daily Devotion

## Seasons of Pruning

When Jesus spoke of the true vine and branches, He said that the Father prunes 'every branch that brings forth fruit'. Pruning is the indicator that we have borne fruit in a season and we are being prepared for the next season of growth. For this reason, we should not be alarmed when the Lord moves to prune us. During these times, we will be contracting. Our lives will appear to be reduced in some quantifiable way. Nevertheless, pruning is an essential part of the offering cycle. There is a time for everything under heaven.

Likewise, we should not be concerned by periods of dormancy. We must know seasons of rest and the Scripture is quite clear on that. The Sabbath was to be a rest, and in the Sabbatical year the land was to lie fallow. These things have critical and practical importance for us. We cannot continue as if the field of our lives can produce fruit for three hundred and sixty-five days a year. The credit squeeze which is upon the world at this time is an opportunity for all prudent Christians in business to adjust their practices so that they might bring forth even more fruit for offering in the future.

For some people, it is time to break up your hard, fallow ground that cannot receive the rain. For others, it is time to sow your seed with a view to righteousness. If you have already sown your seed, then you must wait patiently for the early and latter rain. Or, perhaps you have already brought forth fruit and you are now in a season of pruning. There is no need to be discouraged. Every branch that brings forth fruit, He prunes. Regardless of your personal, family, or business situation, it is time to seek the Lord.

### References:

John 15:2

Lev 23:3

Hos 10:12

### Further Study

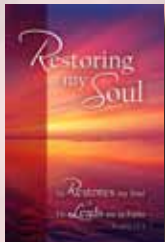
John 15

Eccl 3:1

Lev 25:4

### Daily Proverb

Proverbs 4



'Restoring My Soul' is a daily devotional guide which provides short articles for reading, devotion and reflection. It helps us each day to reflect on God's love and purpose for our lives.

For a free subscription to this publication, please contact the church office .

# Something to Think On

# Commitment

With Australia Day just gone and ANZAC day not too far away, it's a pretty good time to reflect on the things that have traditionally defined the Australian spirit. If you think about the pioneers, the ANZACs or you could even look at many of our sporting teams, we see groups of Australians who held fast against great odds.

Sadly though, the steadfastness or commitment we admire in those who have gone before us is not a predominant characteristic of our society today. We've got unmanageable credit debt and a 'buy now, pay later' mentality, as well as a divorce rate over 40 per cent! Now of course, there will always be circumstances outside of our control and we can't say that everything will work out the way we want it to 100 per cent of the time, but the simple fact is that as a nation, we just don't seem to be able to commit to things in a lasting way any more.

There is no doubt that commitment costs, and none more so than the commitment of God to mankind. Such a commitment cost the Father His Son. The Son, in turn, lived out His commitment to the Father, by taking all sin upon Himself and dying on the cross, so that we can know eternal life.

We must each take time to consider our own levels of commitment. Is our resolve to 'hold fast' dependent upon how well things are going, or whether it is convenient to stay involved? Many people fear commitment. Sometimes they fear relational commitment and sometimes they fear spiritual commitment, but regardless of which it is, these fears are robbing their lives of meaning.

Thankfully, there *is* a commitment we can touch that is eternal. Jesus said, 'In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer I have overcome the world.' John 16:33. When our strength and confidence is in God, then we can be like Paul the Apostle, who faced beatings, scourging, opposition and imprisonment in each city he would visit, but could still say 'none of these things move me.' Acts 20:24.

The Bible says that there *will* be trials and tribulations that come against us, and committing to Christ doesn't take away the pressures of life. What it does do is give us the ability to cope with them, without running away.

- Corey Edwards & James Curtin

Relaxed Atmosphere

Live Music

Great Coffee

Fine Food

Bible Message

# CAFÉ ON THE DECK

Sunday 28th February & 18th April

From 6:30pm

Cnr. Progress & Mission Roads, White Rock

For more info call Josh on 0407 156 066



# foundations



# CITYWIDE

Christian Fellowship

C A I R N S

Citywide Christian Fellowship - Cairns Inc.

Cnr. Progress & Mission Roads  
White Rock

Phone: (07) 4036 0500

Fax: (07) 4036 0555

Web: [www.cafc.org.au](http://www.cafc.org.au)

Email: [office@ccfc.org.au](mailto:office@ccfc.org.au)