

ONE DECISION

AT A TIME

[LEADER PREP GUIDE]

GETTING STARTED

F.W. Boreham famously said, “We make our decisions, and then our decisions turn around and make us.” In many ways, our decisions define our lives. Discuss with your group what decisions you’ve made that have defined your life. Which decisions do you look back on and wish you could change? Which do you look back on and still rejoice that you chose the decision you chose?

Leader Note: Let your group have some time to think and talk about the decisions that they’ve made. To get them started, ask them if they went to college, where, and why? You can ask about relationship decisions, career decisions, faith decisions, etc. Before you jump into the study, pray together as a group.

OVERVIEW

Jesus saw simple chances to share the love of God with those He encountered. We have the same opportunity to focus our hearts and our eyes on the people that God has placed around us. It might be a neighbor, a coworker, someone at the grocery store, a friend at school, or someone you meet randomly as you’re going about your week. They all need to know God’s love for them. We all have something we can offer that the Lord can multiply powerfully. This week we will consider how we can love and lead others to know the love of God, one decision at a time

Open up and read John 1:35-42

Leader Note: Use the following questions to make sure everyone understands the passage. Then, read the “One Decision at a Time” summary before moving on to the application questions.

UNPACKING THE VERSES

1. Why does John refer to Jesus as the “Lamb of God?” What is the significance of that description?

Leader note: Jesus was the promised Messiah who would save His people. This was a building idea throughout the Old Testament. God provided a ram in Genesis 22 to take the place of Isaac. At Mt. Sinai in Exodus 19 and following, God gave Israel the sacrificial system where an animal could be sacrificed to pay for their sins. In Isaiah 52:13 through Isaiah 53, we see that God would send a Suffering Servant to die for His people’s sins. John said that Jesus was that Suffering Servant who would pay for the sins of the world.

2. Jesus asked the disciples who were following Him, “What do you want?” What do you think they were looking for?

Leader note: This can sound cold when you first read it, but Jesus was just asking them what they were looking for from Him. This wouldn’t be the last time Jesus would ask people what they were expecting from Him. They were looking for what everyone else is looking for: hope.

3. These two disciples spent the day with Jesus. What do you think they did and talked about on that day with Him?

Leader Note: While this is speculation, Jesus spent time with a lot of people in the Scriptures. You can talk with the group about other people Jesus spent time with and what He said to them and help them understand that Jesus probably talked about their spiritual needs and Jesus' purpose as their Savior.

4. What was Andrew's response to spending time with Jesus?

Leader Note: We are told that the first thing Andrew did was find his brother and tell him about Jesus. Andrew told his brother, "We have found the Messiah." He had heard and seen enough to know that there was something unique and special about Jesus, enough to believe that He was the Messiah.

5. Why do you think Jesus changed Simon's name to Cephas/Peter, meaning "rock"?

Leader Note: Jesus saw something in Peter. Jesus also continued what God had done in the Old Testament of changing people's names, which was always a symbolic process of revealing their identity and calling. Peter would be a rock, a foundational piece to the mission and ministry of Jesus (Matthew 16:18).

ONE DECISION AT A TIME

Encounters with Jesus lead to decisions. It starts with a decision to trust in Him, but every encounter from there is always a decision. It's a decision to trust in Him and follow Him. It's a decision to give, go, trust, and love. Each decision has the potential to not only change our lives, but the lives of the people around us and around the world. Andrew didn't know that his decision to trust Jesus would lead him on a 3-year journey where he would see miracles he had only read about. He couldn't have predicted that his decision to tell his brother would lead to whole books in the New Testament and the establishment of the Church. It was one decision, but each decision changed Andrew's life and the lives of every believer, including us.

LIVING IT OUT

1. Have you personally decided to trust in Jesus and follow Him?
2. Andrew decided to follow Jesus and the first place Jesus led Him was to his brother. Who have you shared your story with? Who knows about the decision you made to trust Jesus with your life?
3. Jesus called Simon to Himself and gave him a name that pointed to all that Jesus had for his life. It was one decision for Simon to follow Jesus, but it led to a life calling. What decisions do you think Jesus might be leading you toward with your life for Him?

PRAYER

God, thank You for sending Jesus and giving us the ability to decide to follow You—not just for salvation, but for all of life. Help us know each day what decisions we should make to love those You place in our paths and how we can use our lives to bring You glory. Amen.

