

Aim of lesson

To have the class realise that following Christ is to be taken seriously, weighed carefully and accepted wholeheartedly.

Bible background

Luke 5:1-11; 9:57-62; 14:25-35

Outline of lesson

Wanted

Get the class to fill in the first 'WANTED' advertisement in their workbooks. Discuss how most people would choose clever people who could plan what to do, people with money to pay for the advertising programme and people who could speak well and persuade others.

Follow me

Read together Luke 5:1-11. This could be done dramatically. Discuss the characteristics of the people whom Jesus chose.

- Rather poor; poorer still when they followed him.
- Not the University professor types; they were simple fishermen.
- They knew they were not good enough.
- They were convinced he was worth following.
- They were prepared to leave everything for him.

Before filling in the second advertisement, read together Jesus' ideas about what is needed to follow him in Luke 9:57-62. Being prepared to have a rough life – perhaps not having a home. Putting Christ first – before family or other obligations.

Let the class fill in the second ad with the key thoughts from the discussion.

Counting the cost

Get the class to read on their own Luke 14:25-35 and fill in what the king and builder are thinking. Ask what each has put and draw out the meaning of the parables.

To answer the questions on the next page, the class need to unscramble the quotations. The clue is to read off alternate letters. Ask them what each means. A discussion of the context of each is useful if you have time. Bring out the points that if you are on God's side, you are on the winning side, and that he will supply all you need for his work.

Digging deeper

Who were the disciples?

This section builds up a picture of the disciples, their characteristics and their relationships with each other.

Relevance to our lives

Suggest to the class that during the week, in everything they do, they should ask themselves "Would I be prepared to give this up for Christ, if he asked me to?"

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you that you put our needs before your own. Help us to think seriously about following you and help us to put you first in our lives.

Other suggestions for activities

- The class could write and produce a play based on Luke 5:1-11.
- This lesson is a good one to have the class write a song. "Haul, haul away" (Praise the Lord 171) could be used and extra verses written about commitment.