**RECEIVE**

Decisions that Encourage Discipleship

Choosing to intentionally grow into Christlikeness

*“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” Hosea 4:6*

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Unit 101.1 Choosing to leave the place where Jesus finds me

*(Luke 9:23a) “if anyone will come after me…”*

**Receive: (John 1:11-13)** *“He came to His own, and His own people did not accept Him.****12But as many as received Him****, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name,****13****who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a man, but of God.”*

**Grace: (Ephesians 2:4-10)** *“**But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,****5****even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),****6****and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,****7****so that in the ages to come He might show the boundless riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.****8For by grace you have been saved through faith****; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;****9****not a result of works, so that no one may boast.****10****For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”*

Can you remember what it was like in your life when Christ first found you? For some of us, we were travelling the wrong way and we experienced a significant change. For others of us, we had been nurtured in the faith and it seemed natural to follow Jesus. Whatever life may have been like when you chose to be a Christian and to “come after Jesus”, it is clear in the Bible that we were not naturally born into a life with Christ, but we needed to decide to invite Him into our life. Just because we did, or we did not have a crisis, is not the vital point—**we decided.**

**101-1 Deciding to Believe & Trust *(John 3:16)***

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,*

*so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.”*

This is probably the most familiar verse to people in the Bible—and it also is the most accurate verse describing the beginning of the Christian life:

**Grace Diagram**

**Try to remember) where you were, at what age you were, who, if any, were with you to help you to decide, and what did you leave behind to follow Jesus:**

**John 6:44** *“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”*

\*\* Can you think of things about that decision that were helpful to you and that the Holy Spirit may have used to help draw you to Him and to begin following Jesus?

**Deciding to Believe:**

**John 3:16,***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.”*

**John 10:27,** tells us that Jesus said, *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”* See also: **II Peter 3:9 and I John 2:2**

**Deciding to Trust:**

**Proverbs 3:5-6** *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.*

These verses show four “steps” in coming after Christ. On a scale of 1-10,

**(1** is the least, and **10** is the most), give yourself a number for these.

Self friend Jesus

Trusting in the Lord w/ all your heart \_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_

Leaning on your own understanding \_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_ Acknowledging Him in all your life \_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_

Letting Him make your life-paths \_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_

(You may want to go back and give a number that you suspect the person who knows you best might give you for each of these four statements. (You may also want to go back and give a number that you suspect Jesus might give to you!!!)

**GO FOLLOW JESUS THIS WEEK!!!**