
(Parents Present)

Student

Date

Year A Material

Unit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	2	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3
	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	1	2
	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	1
	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1
	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2
	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2
	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2
	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2
	Review								

Year B Material

Unit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	3	4	5	6	7		
	4	5	6	7			
	5	6	7				
	6	7					
	7						
	Review						
	Orals						

LIVING DISCIPLESHIP
A GUIDE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

By Rev. Donald A. Abdon

Artwork by Tana Bondar

I AM A YOUNG DISCIPLE

My name is _____

My address is _____

My telephone number is _____

I am a member of _____ Lutheran Church

My baptism date is _____

My Pastor is _____

My Pastor's address is _____

My Pastor's telephone number is _____

MY FELLOW DISCIPLES IN THIS CLASS ARE:

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HOW TO USE YOUR GUIDE

This manual is your personal property. Take good care of it. You may look back on your instruction with pride someday.

Read each session carefully. Underline important points. Make any notes you wish in the margins. Be neat.

Be sure to color in the artwork as far as the directions tell you. Other colors may be filled in during your class sessions. The instructor has the artwork in color on the overhead projector.

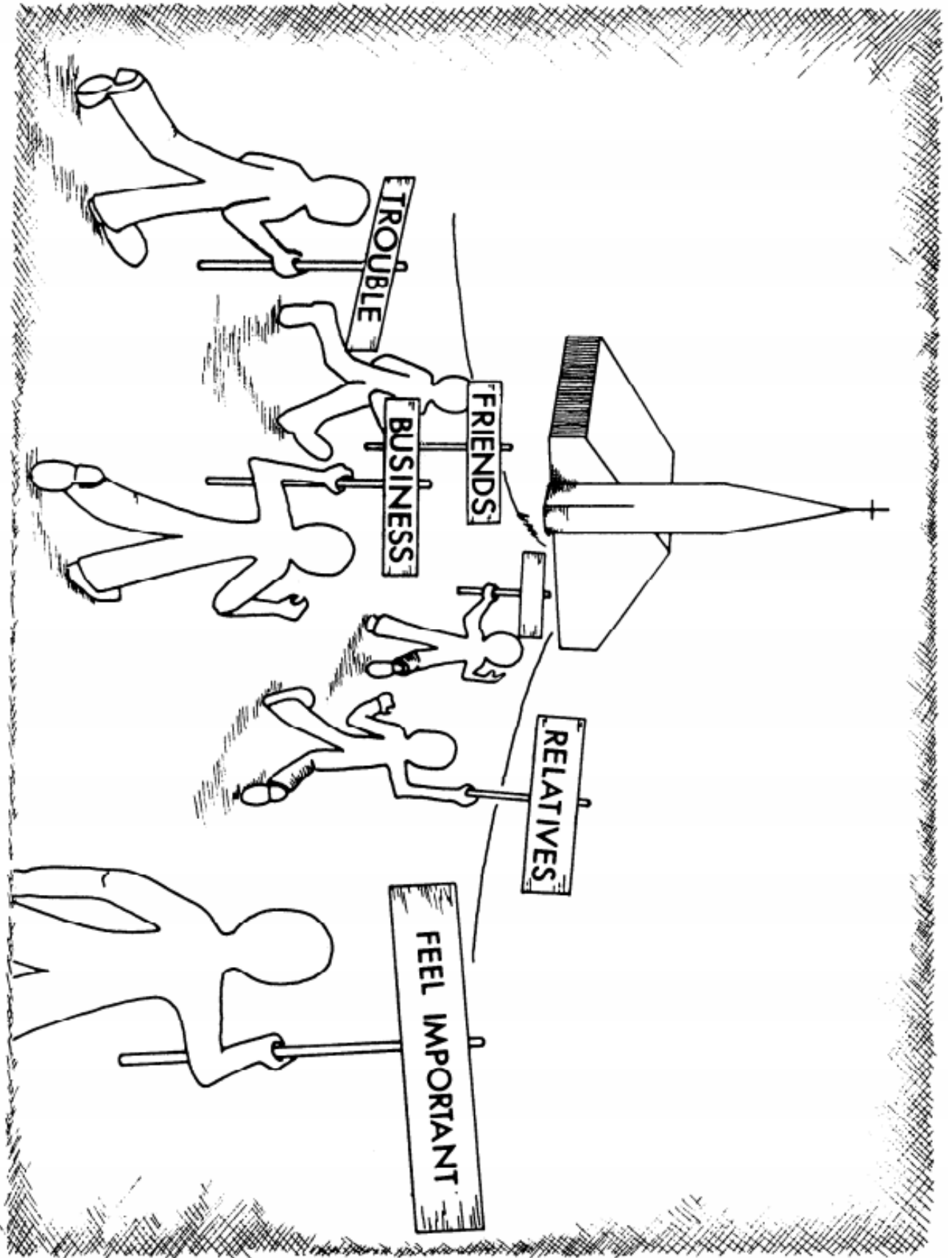
Make every effort to do the "Creative Discipleship" assignments. They will help you grow and will prove enjoyable, too.

You will need a notebook, your catechism, colored pencils, a Bible and this manual for most sessions.

Learn the assigned passages by heart. Treasure God's Word to you. In the years ahead, you'll be glad you did!

Ask your parents to work with you - to read the lesson and help you with the assigned studies and questions.

Begin each session with prayer that God will guide you and open your heart to the truth.



FOLLOWING THE LEADER

Hello, young disciple. That's what you are, you know, a young disciple. Have you ever thought about yourself that way? Maybe you don't even know what a disciple is. Well, a disciple is "one who follows" someone else.

You have probably played "follow the leader" many times. It's a game where the leader says or does different things and you are supposed to do exactly what the leader does. That's something like being a disciple.

There is more to being a disciple in the Bible's sense, however. To be a disciple is to FOLLOW JESUS AS OUR MASTER. Following Him is quite different! When we play "follow the leader", it's just a game. We aren't expected to become *like* the leader. We just follow him or her. TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS, HOWEVER, MEANS TO LET HIM MAKE US LIKE HIMSELF! Jesus shapes our thinking, our talking, our actions when we are His disciples.

In fact, what do you suppose was the first thing Jesus did after He began His ministry? He called disciples! Let's look at Matthew 4:18-22 for a minute. Some very different things happen in this story. First of all, Jesus acted *first*. That is unusual. When someone wanted to study God's Word in Jesus' time, he was encouraged to *find* a master. Jesus turned things around and "found" the disciples!

The next thing we notice is that Jesus *changed* Peter, Andrew, James and John. He said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of *men*." So Jesus *called* them and *changed* them. Notice how they responded in verses 20 and 22. The same thing is said in each place. "*Immediately they left . . .*" They became disciples at Jesus' call and set out to follow Jesus wherever He would lead them. They weren't sure where they were going, but Jesus' call was all they needed. They knew it would be a good trip!

Look at the artwork on the page to the left. What do you see? Lots of people with signs headed for a church. What do the signs tell us? They tell us *why* a lot of people look for a church of some kind. Some people "go to church" because they want to feel important. They belong to an important group of people. Some people go to church to please their relatives, their husband or wife, or other people in the family. Some people go to church because it's "good for business." They meet lots of people at church and that helps them sell themselves to people. Some people go to church because they have "friends" who go to the same church. It makes them feel good to be around those they know well. Some people go to church because they are having trouble with their family, or at work, or with somebody else. That person seeks a church to "feel better" or "to get a lift" for his or her life. You will notice that one sign has nothing on it. Let's suppose that person is you. *You* are carrying the sign up in front. *You* are the leader. What reason would you write on the sign? Maybe you are in confirmation instruction because your parents *made* you come. Maybe you are here because you want to be with friends. Maybe you see confirmation instruction as "school" again. Yuk! Or maybe you see that as good!

Well, let's fill in the sign. Have a pencil or pen handy? Write the word "CALLED" on your sign! THAT'S WHAT JESUS HAS DONE IN YOUR LIFE - HE HAS CALLED YOU TO BE HIS OWN! *He* took the first step. *He* is the Leader. For most of you, He took action and called you before you could even remember. He called you to Himself and made you His own in Holy Baptism when you were not even aware of what He was doing! He made you His disciple, His follower, and began to change your life.

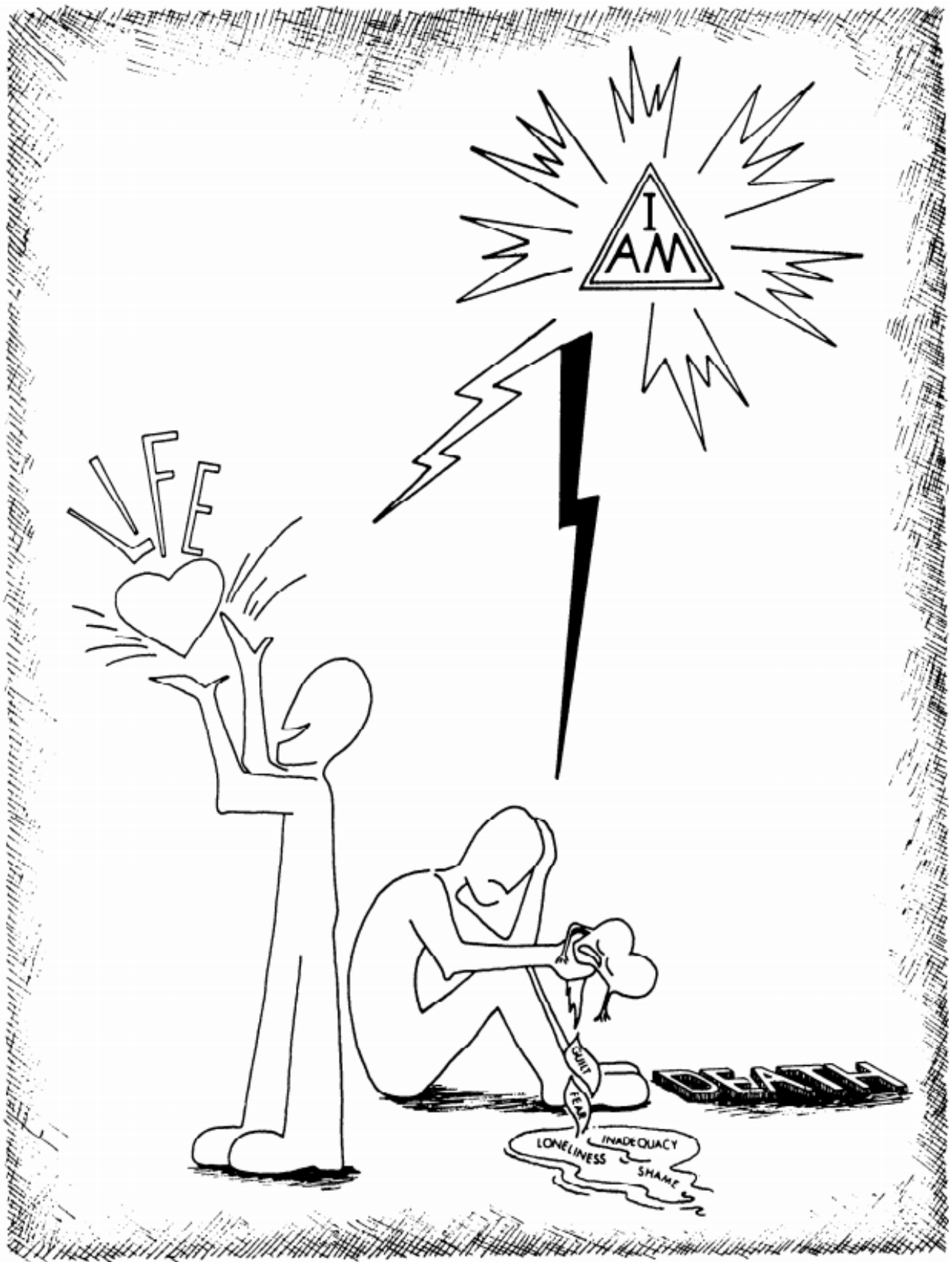
Why did Jesus call you? He called you because you need Him. The Bible says its a matter of life and death! In fact, let's hear what Jesus Himself says. Look up John 10:7-10. Jesus talks about Himself as the "door" through which the sheep enter the safety of the sheepfold. The shepherd usually picked a spot for the sheep at night with high rocks or cliffs on three sides. Then the shepherd stood at the "door" or opening. He protected the sheep from thieves, robbers, and wild animals. He protected the sheep's *life*. Jesus gives us His reason for coming into the world in John 10:10 - "I came that they may have *life*, and have it *abundantly*."

"Abundantly" means "more of it." How can a person have more life? We are either alive or dead!

Look up John 11:26. Jesus promises that whoever lives and believes in Him will never die! Did you ever find a dead bird in your yard? That reminds us that *everything* dies sooner or later. How can Jesus say that a person who believes in Him will never die?

Jesus must be using the words "life" and "death" in a much different way than we normally do. Look at the artwork to the right. It talks about life and death. Color the heart *red*. It is full of life. Blood is red and stands for life. Color the thunderbolt from God on the left *red*. Life comes from God. Color the triangle around the words "I AM" *red*, too. God Himself is life. He is the source of life.

There is another figure sitting on the ground. He is sad. Leave the heart in his hand *white*. All the life has been squeezed out of his heart. Color the word "DEATH" *purple* and the man sitting down *purple*. That is a "heavy" color that says life is gone. Color the thunderbolt *black*. This is a symbol of God's *judgment*. God is not happy with him.



Can you read the words on the droplets and the puddle? They say "guilt, fear, inadequacy, loneliness, shame." These are the feelings that go with death. Have you ever been caught doing something you know you are not supposed to be doing? You felt *guilty*. Have you ever felt your heart beat faster when you were in a dangerous situation? That is *fear*. Has someone ever given you something to do you knew you just couldn't do? You felt *inadequate*. Have you ever felt that nobody cared about you? You were *lonely*. Have you ever been caught doing something bad? You couldn't look the person in the eye. You looked at the floor or the ground. You felt *shame*.

Now we know what Jesus was talking about. "LIFE" IS HAVING GOD AS THE CENTER OF OUR LIVES AND FOLLOWING JESUS AS HIS DISCIPLES. "Death" is HAVING NO HEART FOR GOD, not caring about God. Death is wanting to go our own way without God. Jesus is talking about *spiritual* life and death. In Jesus we discover the way to a life that is full of joy. That life gets better all the time. It is fun to live such a life. Without Jesus life is dull, full of problems, "dead." Such a life is "heavy" all the time. It is filled with "bad news" most of the time.

To be a disciple of Jesus is to receive our life from Him. A disciple "follows the leader." We let Jesus tell us how to live, how to act, how to think.

CREATIVE DISCIPLESHIP

A "collage" is a sort of picture story of one's own life. Before the next session, make a collage of your life. Clip pictures, word phrases, statements, or anything else you wish from magazines or newspapers which will tell us about you. Paste the pictures and phrases on a piece of poster board to help you tell your story. Tell us how you see "life" and what life means. Have fun!

EXERCISE SHEET #1

1. How are you a disciple of Jesus?

2. Many people "go to church" for the wrong reasons. What was different about the way Jesus' disciples "found" Him?

3. Can you explain what "life" and "death" usually mean? How did Jesus use these words in a different way? Explain.

4. What does the picture on page 7 teach you?