



A disciple seeks to do as Jesus did. But this is not from internal effort to avoid what you desire; it flows out of the effortless second nature of one who has become like Jesus. So how can I become more like Jesus? His answer, then and now, is simply this: “come be with me.” We are pretty good at “being for” or “working for.” But we may need to learn how to “be with.”

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

**Group Ice-Breaker:**

(1) Describe the person in your life who you would say is “just so easy to be with.”

**“FOR” OR “WITH”?** Read Job 2:11-13. We tend to “work for,” “do for,” or even “be for” others...but why do we find it hard to simply “be with”? Read Matt 1:23; John 1:1; John 1:18; Rev 21:3. Why does the New Testament put so much emphasis on how, in Jesus, God wants to “be with” us?

**BEING WITH JESUS.** Read John 4:39-41; Mark 3:13-15. People wanted to be with Jesus, and they wanted to be with him. Why do you think that is? Read Acts 4:13. What difference does “being with Jesus” make in a person’s life?

**THE SPIRIT OF JESUS.** Read Matt 28:20; Acts 16:7; Phil 1:19; Rom 8:9-11. Jesus promised he would be with us always, and he fulfilled that promise by sending the Holy Spirit. How does the Spirit’s presence serve as “being with Jesus”? Why is the Spirit called “the Spirit of Jesus” at times? Discuss.

**FOUR WAYS TO BE WITH JESUS.**

- (1) **In the Silence** (through quietness & lack). Read 1 Sam 3:1, 8-10; Psalm 46:10. How can Sabbath rest, or silent meditation, or living more simply be ways to “be with Jesus”?
- (2) **In the Celebration** (through feasting on scripture and fullness of worship). Read Matt 18:20; Heb 3:7-8. How can our Scripture reading and assembling together become ways to be “with” Jesus?
- (3) **In Service to Others** (through giving and serving). Read 2 Cor 8:4, 7, 16. How can “doing for” others also be a way to “be with” Jesus? How can simply “being with” others be a kind of giving and serving?
- (4) **In Supporting the Good** (through praising or partnering in the good). Read Mark 9:38-41. How can encouraging good works that honor God be a way to be “with Jesus”?