

**OPEN THE CONVERSATION**Take some time to build relationships with the students:

* Ask for each student’s high and low from the week.
* Today’s RBQ (Relationship Building Question): “If you had to give up one of these for a whole week—your phone, TV, or sleep—what would you choose, and why?”

**INTRODUCTION**Have you ever seen (or maybe even worn) a **WWJD bracelet**? You might know that the letters stand for a simple question: “What Would Jesus Do?” The bracelets were first created in the 90’s and meant to be a visible reminder for the wearer to pause and think before acting. But the deeper question might be this: Do I actually know what Jesus would do? If we want to follow Jesus, we have to look closely at His life—how He lived, what He valued, and the mission He gave His followers. Today we’ll see how Jesus modeled His mission and then called us to join Him in it!

**What words would you use to describe how Jesus lived His life?**

***READ MATTHEW 4:23***

1. **What do we learn from this verse about Jesus’ overall mission and how he spent his time? And how should that impact the way we follow him today?**
2. **Why is it important that our faith is not just private, but something we share publicly with others?**

***READ MATTHEW 28:16-20***

1. **“Go, “Baptize,” and “Teach,” are all part of Jesus’ final instructions to his followers. What does it look like for us to live out these commands as his followers in 2025?**

***READ MARK 8:34***

1. **How did Jesus model what it looks like to deny himself and honor God? How does our culture often promote the opposite (me-first) type of lifestyle?**
2. **Take a moment to think about your current priorities. What do you make time for? What do you value? Is there anything in your priorities that needs to be rearranged to better prioritize Jesus?**

**WRAP UP**

**Put today's lesson into action:** What small steps could you begin to take to move out

of your comfort zone to share the gospel? How can we as a group support and encourage one another in faithfully following Jesus in daily life?

*Ask for any prayer requests, and pray for one another.*

**EXTENDED CUT**

1. **What do we learn from this verse about Jesus’ overall mission and how he spent his time?** **And how should that impact the way we follow him today?** In this verse, we see Jesus doing three things: **teaching, sharing the good news,** and **healing people in need**. All three of these reveal his heart and point to his overall mission: He cared deeply about people and wanted them to know God rightly and have a relationship with Him. As his followers, we’re called to live like Jesus and pursue this same mission in our everyday lives. That doesn’t mean we all have to become formal teachers or preachers to follow Jesus. Teaching and sharing the good news can often be as simple as sharing with someone what God is teaching you or how he has shown up and made a difference in your life. And when we look for tangible ways to meet the needs of people around us—like encouraging a struggling friend or serving someone quietly—it often opens the door for deeper conversations about our faith. The key is keeping our eyes open, caring for others the way Jesus did, and being ready to share about the reason for the hope we have (1 Peter 3:15).
2. **Why is it important that our faith is not just something we do in private, but something we share with others?** Maybe you’ve been tempted to think of your faith as something that’s personal or private. Something you share with Jesus in your own time, but don’t like to talk about with others. We live in a culture that likes to promote faith as a personal and private matter, best left up to the individual to decide for themselves. But Jesus makes it clear with his own actions, that our faith as Christians isn’t meant to be kept to ourselves but rather lived and shared out loud! It’s meant to serve a much greater purpose by pointing others to knowing God as well. Jesus described it this way in Matthew 5:14-16, “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”Knowing and following Jesus is like being given a light. Not only is it a gift to us so that we get to see, but we are then sent back out into the darkness so we can share that light with others so they can see too!
3. **“Go,” “Baptize,” and “Teach,” are all part of Jesus’ final instructions to his followers. What does it look like for us to live out these commands as his followers in 2025?** Living out Jesus’ commands to **go, baptize, and teach** in 2025 doesn’t always mean moving across the world to be a missionary, but it does mean taking action right where we are. “Going” could look like crossing the room to befriend someone new, offering to pray with a teammate who’s having a hard day, or speaking up about your faith when it would be easier to stay quiet. Every day is full of opportunities for us to “go” and live on mission. God has placed you at your school, in your neighborhood, on your sports team or play group for a reason—and given you His Spirit to help you. “Baptize” reminds us that following Jesus is not just a private belief but a public declaration. If you’ve trusted Him as your Savior but haven’t taken that step, baptism is the way to show outwardly the commitment you’ve made inwardly! It also calls us to invite others into that same new life with Christ and into the family of the Church. Finally, “teach” means passing along what we’ve learned about Jesus so others can grow too. That could look like serving in your church, sharing what God is teaching you with a friend, or committing to grow alongside others in a life group. Together, “go, baptize, and teach” remind us that following Jesus is active. It’s an invitation to participate with God in the work he is doing each and every day.
4. **How did Jesus model what it looks like to deny himself and honor God? How does our culture often promote the opposite (me-first) type of lifestyle?** Jesus modeled perfectly what it means to deny Himself and honor God by choosing obedience to the Father over His own comfort, desires, or glory. From leaving heaven to live among us (John 1:14), to serving instead of being served (Mark 10:45), and ultimately giving His life on the cross (Luke 22:42), Jesus consistently put God’s will and the good of others above His own. And he calls his followers to that same kind of obedience in Mark 8:34—to choose Him over our own preferences. Our culture, on the other hand, often pushes the exact opposite, with messages like “do what makes you happy”, “put yourself first,” or “follow your truth.” Things like social media, advertising, and even simple peer pressure all encourage us to chase popularity, idolize comfort, and seek our own success. That me-first mindset that comes so naturally to our flesh, makes denying ourselves feel unnatural and even uncomfortable. But Jesus reminds us that true life isn’t found in living for ourselves—it’s found in giving up control and following Him, no matter the cost!
5. **Take a moment to think about your current priorities. What do you make time for? What do you value? Is there anything in your priorities that needs to be rearranged to better prioritize Jesus?** In one of His most famous sermons, The Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warned His listeners, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). What He meant is that the things we value most in our hearts are revealed by where we choose to invest our treasure—not just our money, but also our time and energy. When we reflect on our lives, it can feel busy and full with school, homework, family, friends, extracurricular activities, TV, and social media. And while none of these things are bad, the sheer busyness can unintentionally pull us away from investing in what matters most. In Mark 8:34, Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. Almost always this will require intentional choices with where we spend our time: taking a break from social media, opening our Bibles before our phones, or setting boundaries with other commitments so we can make time for church and community. But obedience is always worth it. As we rearrange our priorities to follow Jesus, we open the door to a life that is not only meaningful and full of purpose today but also eternal.