

Foundations in Jesus, Part 3 Worksheet

“A Pattern for Life”

God has given us great patterns for living. As we learn to hear God’s voice and to obey Him, we will find our lives aligned with His will and the favor of God will follow us.

Jesus’ life and ministry provides a great example of this. Let’s read a story from the Gospel of Luke to help us see and understand this foundational principle.

Luke 5:1-11 (NIV)

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Part 1 - The Rewards of Obeying God

1. God gives us _____.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

a. All throughout the Bible, we find many examples of God speaking to people and giving people instructions, warnings, or commands.

b. This happened even from the very start, in the book of Genesis!

c. Adam & Eve – A 3-Step Game Plan:

i. **Genesis 1:28** God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

ii. God’s Commands to Adam & Eve were Simple:

1. Be _____ and increase in number.

2. _____ the earth and subdue it.

Foundations in Jesus, Part 3 Worksheet

3. _____ over the fish in the sea...

- d. The commands and instruction of God bring _____ and teach us the way of _____.
- e. Many of God's commands throughout the Bible apply to us, today. We can learn and glean from these. **In addition to these, God is still speaking and giving instruction to us.**
- f. Part of the joy of living involves learning to hear the _____ of God and to follow Him.
- g. What does the Bible say about the commands of God? That they are good and following them results in good things. Some examples:

- i. **Deuteronomy 6:1–2 (NIV)** ¹*These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess,* ² *so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by **keeping all his decrees and commands** that I give you, and **so that you may enjoy long life.***
- ii. **1 Kings 3:14** *And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, **I will give you a long life.***"
- iii. **Proverbs 19:16** ***Whoever keeps commandments keeps their life, but whoever shows contempt for their ways will die.***

h. **The process of learning to walk with God involves obeying His commands.**

Jesus even demonstrated this for us, himself:

- i. **John 6:38 (NIV)** ³⁸ *For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.*

2. **God Gives us the opportunity to _____ to Him.**

⁵ *Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."*

a. Simon had a choice, and he chose to respond _____ to Jesus' Instruction.

b. **Another Great Example: Abraham.**

- i. God spoke to Abraham and called him to leave his land and to go somewhere else:
- ii. **Genesis 12:1–5 (NIV)** ¹ *The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you." ² "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

Foundations in Jesus, Part 3 Worksheet

c. In that moment, Abraham had three options:

- i. _____ God, pretending He didn't hear Him.
- ii. _____ God's offer and go about his life.
- iii. _____ God.

d. What did Abraham Choose?

- i. **Genesis 12:4-5** ⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.
- ii. **Abraham chose to obey and to _____ God!**
 1. His choice is impacting our lives today, nearly 4,000 years later!

e. Jesus said this about responding to His commands:

- i. **Luke 6:46-49 (NIV)** ⁴⁶ "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? ⁴⁷ As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. ⁴⁸ They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

3. Our Response will determine the _____.

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

- a. If we choose to _____, then we can expect the best possible results for the long term.
- b. If we choose to disobey, then we end up _____ for less than God's best.
- c. The Fishermen with Jesus didn't fully understand, yet they chose to trust Him and operate in Faith.

d. Here's a Great Rule of Thumb:

- i. We won't always understand everything that God asks of us, but we can always _____ God because He is always _____.

Foundations in Jesus, Part 3 Worksheet

e. The Results

- i. Sometimes the Results are _____ - _____ !
⁹For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.
- ii. Other times we may not yet see the tangible results of obedience, but we know we are doing the _____ thing.
- iii. Still other times, we find ourselves in the midst of opposition, yet are confident that following Jesus brings _____ even when it's _____.
 1. **Acts 21:10–14 (NIV)** ¹⁰After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"
¹²When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."
¹⁴When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, "The Lord's will be done."

4. There is always a _____ in Jesus.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "*Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.*" ¹¹So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

- a. Often, what comes **Next** is only revealed once we say "yes" to the **Now**.
- b. The _____ follows the _____.
 - i. *Luke 16:10 (NIV)* ¹⁰"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."

5. Every Step of Obedience builds our _____.

⁶When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

- a. As you Follow Jesus and recognize this pattern, you will see your faith grow!
- b. **To Recap, here is the Pattern:**
 - i. Jesus Gives us Instructions
 - ii. God Gives us the Opportunity to Respond to Him
 - iii. Our Response will Determine the Results
 - iv. There is Always a *Next* in Jesus
 - v. Every Step of Obedience Builds our Faith

Foundations in Jesus, Part 3 Worksheet

Part 2 - The Power of Generosity

1. God is the ultimate _____ and is extremely generous.
 - a. He gave even his own son, because of His great love for you and me!

2. You can't _____ - _____ God.

3. _____ is one of the values of our Gateway culture.
 - a. *Proverbs 11:25* A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

4. Three Ways we can Model a Culture of Generosity:
 - a. Through the giving of _____ and _____.
 - i. Abraham set an example for us, by giving a tenth of all that he had to Melchizedek, the King and Priest of God.

 - b. Through giving gifts and _____.
 - i. Birthdays and anniversaries are great occasions to bless others.
 - ii. Blessing doesn't require a special occasion, though!

 - c. Through the sharing of our _____, _____ and _____.