

Connect to the Source



Read the following passage. If all you knew about Jesus was based on Mark 1:7-17,

- What qualifies Jesus to lead a movement you would consider following?
- What expectations would you have if Jesus was leader in your class?

⁷ He (John the Baptist) was preaching: "Someone more powerful than I will come after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of His sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. ¹⁰ As soon as He came up out of the water, He saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending to Him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: You are My beloved Son; I take delight in You!

¹² Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness 40 days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and the angels began to serve Him.

¹⁴ After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the good news of God: ¹⁵ **"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe in the good news!"**

¹⁶ As He was passing along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, Simon's brother. They were casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. ¹⁷ "Follow Me," Jesus told them, **"and I will make you fish for people!"**

Mark 1:7-17 (HCSB)

There are at least three reasons Jesus has the right to lead the work of our class:

1. He _____ completely with _____
2. He _____ with the _____ He came to _____
3. He _____ to be part of His _____

Stay Connected to Someone Who ...

Circle one of the following scenarios that you identify with the most (or in which persons in your Sunday School class would relate to the most). Start a list of words, phrases, concepts that help you realize people in this category needs what your Sunday School class has to offer.

We must stay connected to someone who ...

... have moved away from family and friends for school or job.

... seek to get connected with needs of children.

... just discovered a significant health crisis.

... are overwhelmed with work these days.

... looking for ways to keep the family connected.

... wonder why no one calls or visits except to ask for something.

... realize there will be mounting unforeseen challenges as a caregiver.

... are seeking to rebuild after a major a loss.

... are busier now than ever – for better or worse.

... _____ (list a category or issue not provided)

Connect the Class

with God's Word

Opportunities/Strengths of our class

Challenges/We need to work on this

Overview the following list. Determine into which category you would place each item. Be prepared to explain why you chose to assign these where you did.

- | | |
|--|--|
| a) Bible study is the center of our experience | i) Organized to stay in touch with members |
| b) Our class is open to newcomers | j) Teacher leads members to participate in Bible study |
| c) We help members make application | k) Members talk about what they are learning |
| d) Balance between going deep and being open | l) Non members feel invited and welcome |
| e) Members prepare for life-changing Bible study | m) We use name tags |
| f) We want every participant to be a member | |
| g) We want not-yet-believers to be enrolled | |
| h) The room looks like we want people to connect | |

Worksheet 3: Connect the Class with God's Word.

For use with Connect³: The Power of One Sunday School Class – Adult Teaching Plan

Connected as a Community of Ministers

Read the following statements from Connect³. Circle the statement which provides the greatest challenge for you and your class. Place a star (*) beside the statement you feel your class is learning to demonstrate or put this into action.



Our class enrollment is seen as our ministry list: we are committed to minister to our members.

Our class is a community of friends; we have to be intentional at staying open to new people.

Our class is intentional about helping members and prospects experience a Great Commandment community.

Our class is intentional about answering the question, "Has our class honored our commitment to this member?"

Our class is a place to go where "everybody knows your name."

Our class does the kinds of things you'd expect a community of faith to do; as it develops, it moves beyond just doing caring activities, and really starts caring.

Our class likes to have fun together.

Our class learns to bond in fellowship by doing ministry project(s) together.

Our class requires more leaders since we seek to help members connect through ministry and fellowship.

Our class is learning to pray for the challenges and victories of lives in our community.

Connected as Commissioned Missionaries

The class is to focus on _____ – proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel.

As a class grows into a community, it is to add an emphasis of *koinonia* – _____.

The next step is for a class to build on the other two as it demonstrates *kenosis* – which means _____.

Read Philippians 2:5-11. What are words or phrases that identify examples Jesus demonstrated as our example.

⁵ Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage.

⁷ Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form, ⁸ He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason God also highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow— of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth— ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Phil 2:5-11 (HCSB)

1. Class members can _____

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-
-
-

2. Class members can _____

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-
-

3. A class can _____

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