Topic: Discipleship

Bible: Luke 9:23

Say: Today we are going to learn about discipleship.

It takes training and discipline to become like Jesus. We don’t train more by trying harder, but trusting more. It requires you to get out of the drivers seat and let God take the lead.

The more we live connected to God, the more we trust Him and become like Jesus.

It takes training and discipline to set aside time to pray, read the Bible, talk to God throughout the day, listen to God’s voice and journal. Those activities keep us connected to God, which helps us trust God & become more like Jesus.

**Read** Luke 9:23 (The Message):

“Then he told them what they could expect for themselves: "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat—I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how.” Luke 9:23 (The Message)

Discuss the following questions in small groups: What does this verse have to do with today’s topic? Why is it hard to allow God to lead us? What benefits are there to allowing God to take the lead? Dre trained hard to be good at Kung Fu, what type of training can you do to become more like Jesus?

Activity: Sticky Balloon

Supplies: 20 balloons per group of 3 or 4 preteens & lots of masking tape. Preteens blow up their own balloons or have them already blown up beforehand. On each balloon, preteens write down ways to live like Jesus. If you are preparing them beforehand, then write ways to live like Jesus on each balloon.

How to play: Break up preteens into groups of 3-4. Give a roll of masking tape to each group. Preteens work together to wrap one player in each group with masking tape (sticky side out) from the top of their knees to their arm pits. Once wrapped with masking tape, players begin putting on the balloons until all of them are sticking to their teammate. The group that finishes first wins.

Say: Our goal as followers of Jesus is to live like Jesus. The balloons represent living like Jesus. The more we “train” to be like Jesus, the more we become like him in our actions and attitudes. When our friends look at us, they should see the attributes written on the balloons (patience, kindness, acceptance, etc).