

Roadtrip: Lesson 1



Roadtrip

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Road-Trip Teaching Series

Week 1

“The Passengers”

Text: Mark 1:16–20

Takeaway Point: Jesus invites us to be passengers on his road-trip.

[Slide 1 -Title Slide]

[Slide 2 – Human Roller Coaster]

Opening Activity: Human Roller Coaster

This is a great activity to get students up and moving. There is no winner or end goal, but this particular activity will help set up the idea of being a “passenger” on the road-trip with Jesus. Tell the students they are invited to join you as passengers on a ride, but it’s a special ride... In fact, it’s a roller coaster. Pick your most enthusiastic volunteer to lead from the front or stage. That person will act as if he or she is on a roller coaster (i.e. leaning backwards and going “click, click, click” like they’re going up the first big hill), and students are supposed to mimic whatever the stage person does. If the stage person leans to the right side, the whole room of students will lean to the right side. If they scream while going downhill, the whole room of students will scream while going downhill. Coach the volunteer to be really goofy and dramatic and see if students can match it. You can even do the activity twice, but in the 2nd round you can have the most enthusiastic student lead it from the front.

[Slide 3 – Title Slide]

Transition statement: You guys were excellent passengers on that ride. Sometimes it’s fun to be a passenger because you just have to sit back and let the driver do all the work. Sometimes it’s not so fun because you don’t like how the driver is driving and it begins to make you sick. But regardless of how you feel, at some point in your life you are the passenger in someone else’s ride.

Large Group Lesson:

We are starting a teaching series today called “Road-Trip.” Now some of you may have been on a road-trip at some point in your life. It gets a little crazy on road-trips sometimes. You could have bad weather, or car-sickness, or traffic. On the positive side, road-trips can also be a lot of fun. In this series, we’re going to look at Jesus’ life as if he were on a road-trip the whole time he was on earth. There are two main questions you have to ask for any road-trip:

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[Slide 4 – 1. Where are we going on this road-trip? 2. Who is going on this road-trip?]

1. Where are we going on this road-trip?
2. Who is going on this road-trip?

The cool thing is Jesus always knew where he was going on his road-trip. He had a single purpose here on earth. He knew he would eventually die on the cross for all humanity. But he was not alone on his road-trip. And today we're going to talk about the passengers on his road-trip.

Let me first ask you this: Who are those people in your life that, if they walked into this room right now, you would get up and go on a road-trip with them without thinking?

- Your parents?
- Your best friend?
- Justin Bieber?
- Lebron James?
- (Insert the name of a popular celebrity in your group)?

We all want to follow someone who will inspire us and give us wisdom. And this was no different in the time of Jesus. Young Jewish boys would study and memorize huge portions of Scripture in hopes that a Rabbi would eventually choose them to be his disciple. That disciple would follow them everywhere, learning from his every step and word. Have you ever followed someone like that? Have you ever tried to learn a specific skill from somebody else?

[Slide 5 – How might your life look differently if you chose to follow Jesus that closely?]

How might your life look differently if you chose to follow Jesus that closely? Today we're going to start working through the book of Mark and take a peek at what hitch-hikers joined Jesus on his road-trip.

[Slide 6 & 7 – Mark 1:16–20]

(Have students turn to Mark 1:16–20 and read through the verses together)

Mark 1:16-20 (NLT) - **“16** One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. **17** Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” **18** And they left their nets at once and followed him.

19 A little farther up the shore Jesus saw Zebedee's sons, James and John, in a boat repairing their nets. **20** He called them at once, and they also followed him, leaving their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired men.

Notice that Jesus does not choose from the elite intellectuals to be his disciples - he chose very normal, ordinary guys.

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- This would be like if today Jesus came to earth and he stopped at the local McDonalds and asked a few fry-cooks to follow him.
- In the same way, Jesus invites everyone to follow him and join God's family. Jesus does NOT show favoritism.

And look at their responses... Did it say, "They talked it over for a while," or, "They went out for one last party in the town," or, "They looked around at their friends to make sure they wouldn't look dumb if they followed Jesus." NO! It says they immediately dropped their nets and followed him!

They gave up EVERYTHING to follow Jesus—their source of income, their families, their normal lives—because they knew Jesus would give them a much better life with more purpose.

- *Would we be willing to do the same exact thing right now in this very moment if Jesus walked through that door?*

[Slide 8 – They are normal, average people. They give up their comfort to follow Jesus. They go immediately.]

So we learned three things about the guys who follow Jesus (the passengers in the car):

- They are normal, average people
- They give up their comfort to follow Jesus
- They go immediately

-Disciples in this time period were an interesting concept. The word "disciple" in the original Greek actually means "learner." There was a saying in the time that said, "May you be covered in the dust of the rabbi", meaning that disciples would follow Rabbis so closely that their feet and shins would be covered in the dust from the road that the Rabbi would kick up (**optional: bring student up to show what this might look like, and walk around stage**)

-Are your feet covered in dust from following Jesus?

OBJECT LESSON: Have different pairs of shoes on stage (running shoes, work boots, worn-out shoes with holes in them, bedroom slippers, etc.); use each one to represent where a student's relationship/follow-ship of Jesus might be. (e.g. work boots represents it's been hard to follow God recently, but they've diligently worked hard at following Him; bedroom slippers represent a student who has gotten lazy about following Jesus)

[Slide 9 – What shoes are YOU wearing today?]

What shoes are YOU wearing today?

Jesus invites EVERYONE to be a passenger on his road-trip and follow him, but be prepared to go immediately and put Him above everything else in your life.

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[Slide 10 – Title Slide]

Transition Statement: Today in your small groups you're going to talk more about what it means to be a passenger (or disciple) on the road-trip with Jesus. This isn't an easy trip, but it'll be the best experience of your life— if you're willing to get in the car.

Small Group Time:

Small Group Activity: Follow the Leader

Pick one student to be blindfolded (the “passenger”) and one student to be the leader (or “driver”). Explain that they’re going to go on a road-trip around the room, and the driver will have to instruct the passenger on where to go without touching him or her. Next, have the rest of the students in the small group be obstacles in the road that they must avoid (but also must pass). For example, you could have one student be a windmill on the road and wave his or her arms around. Another student might be a speed-bump that the driver and passenger have to step over. A third student might be a car stuck in traffic and they can just stand there yelling “HONK HONK” to distract the passenger from hearing the driver’s voice. Have the driver lead the passenger around the course and then interview the passenger at the finish line. (An alternative option is to make it a race between two pairs of students). When interviewing the student, ask:

- What was the most difficult part about that trip?
- How did it feel to know you weren’t alone, and the driver was directing you to safety?

Discussion Time:

- 1) If you could go on a road-trip with anybody in the world, who would it be and why?
- 2) Why do you think the disciples were so willing to drop everything and follow Jesus?
- 3) Why do you think Jesus chose normal, average, ordinary guys to be his disciples instead of the most intelligent, the most popular, or the most beautiful people?
- 4) In the message today we talked about different kinds of shoes as examples of what your relationship with Jesus might look like. What shoe best represents your relationship with God?
- 5) What are some ways you can learn to follow Jesus more closely as his disciple THIS week?