

STUDY GUIDE: “WHAT’S IN A NAME?”

“What does ‘Christian’ Really Mean?”

Discussion Starters

1. When were you first called “Christian”?
2. Do you think people who call you “Christian” mean the same thing you do by that term?

Study

3. To begin this study, read each passage below and note what it tells us about being called “Christian” or another term.

Matthew 10:24-25—

Mark 4:10—

Luke 14:26—

Luke 14:33—

Acts 11:29—

1 Peter 4:14-16—

To complete the next section of the study guide, you will need to use a Bible Dictionary. Remember, the words listed below are from the NASU, but the word you are trying to define is the Greek or Hebrew word translated by the NASU—NOT the English word. If you have any questions about how to use these tools, contact your group leader or one of the pastoral staff.

4. Define the following words or terms. Note for each of them how understanding the meaning and background of that word better helped you understand this passage.

--“disciples” (Acts 11:29)—

--“Christians” (Acts 11:29)—

--“hate” (Luke 14:26)—

--“give up” (Luke 14:33)—

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5. Why is a name or term applied to a person or group significant?

6. What was the significance of people calling the disciples “Christian” in the New Testament? Was this a positive thing? Please explain.

7. What does each of the terms “follower”, “disciple”, “Christian” convey that the other terms does not?

8. What does “Christian” mean to people in the world today? Is this the same as what scripture says the term means? Please explain.

Taking It Home

9. When were you first referred to as “Christian”? How did you feel? Did the term fit?

10. What do you need to change to be more like “Christ”?

11. Which term: “follower”, “disciple” or “Christian” do you relate to the most? Why?