

Today's Reading: Mark 1:16-20

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he [Jesus] saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Simple Summary (for Parents):

In today's passage, Jesus calls four ordinary fishermen—Simon, Andrew, James, and John—to become His disciples. A disciple is someone who learns from and commits his life to Jesus. Jesus told these men that He would make them "fishers of men," for they would spend their lives teaching others what it means to follow Jesus. While these four disciples played a unique role in Christ's ministry (they were part of the original twelve disciples), this story has much to teach disciples of Jesus today. First, we see Jesus's authority. He simply speaks, and people leave everything to follow Him. Second, we see that Jesus is worthy of our complete devotion. These four men left their jobs and their families for the sake of Christ. Third, we see that following Jesus involves teaching others to follow Him. Every disciple of Jesus has a role to play in the mission Christ has given to His church—"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19).

Discuss:

1. The four fishermen in today's story must have been surprised when Jesus called out to them. How do you think you would have responded to Jesus?

(Give your children an opportunity to give an honest answer.)

2. Jesus called these four men to be His disciples. What is a disciple?

(See the summary above: a disciple is someone who learns from and commits his life to Jesus.)

3. These disciples left their jobs and their families. Why would they do something like that?

(Point out that Jesus is worth giving our entire lives to. Nothing is more important than following Jesus.)

4. What did Jesus mean when He said that He would make these disciples “fishers of men”?

(Instead of searching for fish, the disciples would now try to urge people to follow Jesus. Point out that disciples of Jesus should still be doing this today.)

5. How do you become a disciple of Jesus today?

(You become a disciple of Jesus by hearing the gospel and then turning from your sins and trusting in Jesus as your Savior and Lord. Tell your kids that we will continue to talk about this in the days ahead. Feel free to fill in more of the gospel at this point if it seems like an appropriate time.)

Pray:

Ask God to make you willing to follow Jesus as His disciple, even when it is difficult. Pray that He would help you to continue to believe the good news of the gospel.

Sing:

[“Jesus, Strong and Kind”](#) (See Week 1 Song Sheet for lyrics)