

Lesson 3: Jesus Calls His Disciples

Bible passage: Matthew 4:18-22, Matthew 9:9-13

Sometimes, animal researchers will put cameras in the forest or other animal habitats that watch them to see what they do. The animals are usually pretty shy. They don't know they're being watched with the cameras. They think they're all alone, just doing their own thing.

Those animals are like the guys in our Bible story. They thought they were all alone doing their own thing, working hard to provide for their families, and making plans for how they wanted to live their lives. But someone was watching. Can you guess who? ... Even when we don't see Him, when we feel alone, Jesus is there.

One day, Jesus was walking along by the Sea of Galilee. Suddenly, Jesus stopped because He saw two brothers out in the water on a boat. Now, those two brothers were Simon Peter and Andrew, and they were fishermen. Simon Peter and Andrew were throwing their nets over the side of the boat, catching fish, doing their own thing, and working hard. But Jesus had been watching. He knew who they were. And He called out to them. He said, "Follow me! And I will make you fishers of men!" Immediately, they dropped their nets, jumped out of their boats, and followed Jesus.

Jesus kept walking, and soon he saw two more brothers: James and John. James and John were with their dad, Zebedee, out on the water in their boat. They were fishermen too. James, John, and Zebedee were fixing their fishing nets, when they heard Jesus call out to them. He said, "Follow Me! And I will make you fishers of men!" Can you believe it? Again! And guess what! Immediately, James and John jumped out of their boat, left their dad, and followed Jesus.

Later, Jesus was walking through town. He saw a man named Matthew working in his tax booth. Matthew was minding his own business, doing his own thing, and collecting people's tax money. But Jesus was watching. He knew Matthew, and He said to him, "Follow Me!" I bet you can guess what happened next. Matthew got up and followed Jesus.

All those men left their work and their plans as soon as Jesus called them. Their lives changed very quickly. Jesus knew them. He knew they weren't all perfect people. They were sinful and made bad choices sometimes, just like we do. But Jesus wants everyone to follow Him! Jesus taught those men, who became His disciples, about God the Father, His directions for living, and His love. Jesus wanted them to follow Him and to share with others about the love of God the Father.

Lesson 3 Discussion Questions

Found in Matthew 4 and 9

- What type of work did Simon Peter and Andrew do to provide for their families?
 - Matthew 4:18: They were fishermen

- What did Jesus say He would make Simon Peter and Andrew if they followed Him? What does that mean?
 - Matthew 4:19: Jesus said He would make them fishers of men. They would no longer catch fish, but instead would “fish” for people.
 - They would share with others about God’s directions for living and about His love.

- Matthew was a tax collector. Many people thought he was just a bad guy—a sinner. Why did Jesus want Matthew to follow Him?
 - Matthew 9:12-13: Jesus wants everyone to follow Him
 - He knows we can’t follow God’s directions perfectly. We all sin, but He loves us and forgives us. Jesus came to save sinners

Jesus promised to make His disciples fishers of men when they followed Him. We can follow Jesus and be fishers of men too. We can tell others about God, His directions for living, and His love. Remember, Jesus is with us and leads the way. He shows us how to be fishers of men!

Pray

Jesus, thank You for always being with us. Forgive us for the times we sin or live life the way we want to, instead of the way You have called us to. Please help us to be kind and loving. Help us to be fishers of men and to share Your love with others. In Your name we pray. Amen.