

Bible Lesson

10. Jesus Calls Followers

Matthew 4; Mark 1, 2, 3; Luke 6



“Come, follow me,” Jesus said.

Mark 1:17

Jesus Calls Followers

Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee. Simon Peter and Andrew were fishermen. These brothers were throwing a net into the lake.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said. At once, they left their nets and followed him.

Two other brothers were in the boat. Jesus called to James and John, "Come, follow me." They also left their nets and followed Jesus.

Jesus met Levi. He collected money for taxes. He was sitting in his booth. "Come, follow me," Jesus said. Levi got up, left his money, and followed Jesus.

Jesus went up to a mountain. He spent the whole night praying. The next day, he called 12 men to follow him. They were called his disciples. They were Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Simon, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Thaddeus, and Judas.

His disciples followed Jesus from town to town. He sent them out two by two. They healed many. They sent evil spirits out of people. They said, "Turn from your sins." The disciples returned full of joy.

They followed Jesus until he died. Then, they took his message of love around the world.

Questions

1. How did Jesus get his 12 disciples?
2. What does a disciple do?
3. Jesus still invites us, "Come, follow me." Have you become a disciple of Jesus?
4. The disciples left everything to follow Jesus. What might you have to leave to follow Jesus?

Pray this prayer:

Dear Jesus,
I have decided to follow you.
Thank you for calling me to be
a disciple. Please help me to
turn from my sins, love others,
share your message, and
follow you.

Amen

Write your name and date on the feet.
Write on the globe where God might call
You to follow him.



Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) Do you know anyone who follows Jesus? Do they seem different from those who don't follow Jesus? How?
- b) How do you think Jesus picked his 12 special disciples?
- c) What might they had to give up in order to follow him?

After you read:

Nets and Worldwide Seas

Bring in a variety of ways to fish: a rod, a stick with string, a drag net, a scoop on a handle, etc. Talk about different ways to catch fish. Discuss ways to catch people for the kingdom of God. Write different ministries on index cards, such as: teaching English, building clean water filters, disaster relief, feeding the homeless, etc. On other index cards, write areas or countries where God needs workers. What might God call you to do? Where? Turn the cards over and match areas to ministries. Do you like this match? Pray for Jesus to show you where and how to you might follow him into local or global missions.

Old Life – New Life

Look back through the story. On one side of the board write "Old Life." In another column, write "New Life." Write what the disciples left behind: jobs, security, family, etc. What did they experience in the new life: adventure, healing, casting out evil spirits, etc. and joy! Talk about details. What might it be like to give a crippled person a new life with mobility, or sight? Would it be worth the sacrifices?

Caught and Catching On

Jesus called us to *not* just be disciples, but to become disciple makers. Who can you "catch" for Jesus. On construction paper, cut out a simple fish shape. Cut out five in different colors. Think of five people you know who may not yet be in the kingdom of God. On one side, write that person's name. On the other side, write a few things you can do to invite them to follow Jesus. Pray and act on it.

Truth in a Bubble

Write in the word bubbles what the disciples might have really been thinking. Write what Jesus might have said to them (knowing their thoughts). Include: "Don't worry. From now on you will catch men." Draw yourself below and fill in your thoughts in the bottom left bubble when Jesus says to you, "Follow me."



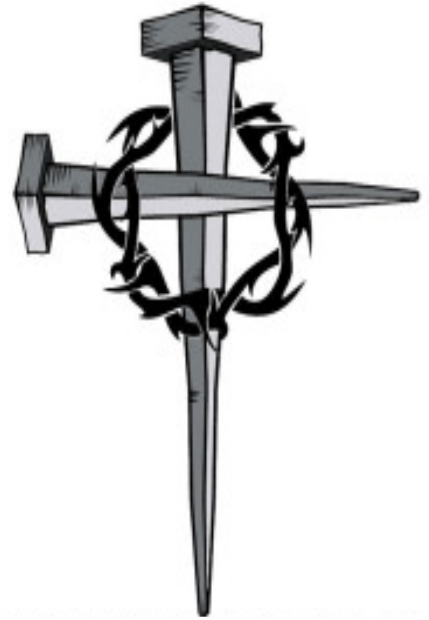
I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2TwhEL2EPc>

I have decided to follow Jesus.
I have decided to follow Jesus.
I have decided to follow Jesus.
No turning back. No turning back.

Though none go with me, still I will follow.
Though none go with me, still I will follow.
Though none go with me, still I will follow.
No turning back. No turning back.

The cross before me, the world behind me.
The cross before me, the world behind me.
The cross before me, the world behind me.
No turning back. No turning back.



It's TIME to Pray

What did Jesus do before he made that huge, important decision about who his apostles would be? He prayed... all night! Fill in the clock with a prayer on each line telling Jesus it is time for you to follow him. On another copy, fill in the names of the 12 apostles. You might want to erase the name of Judas, and write your own name in. If you have a big decision to make, write the request on each line and ask 12 times throughout the day. Jesus said to keep knocking on his door in prayer.

