



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 21: Jesus Calls Disciples

Scripture

Matthew 4:18-22
 Mark 1:16-20
 John 1:35-51

Memory Verse

We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God’s Good News but our own lives, too.
 1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NLT)

Lesson Goals

Understand that Jesus chose ordinary men.

Understand that the disciples left everything to follow Jesus.

Understand that Jesus taught these disciples everything they needed to know.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

Some time after he baptized Jesus, John the Baptist was with two of his disciples. He saw Jesus walking by and he said, “Look! The Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this. So they followed Jesus.” (John 1:36-37 Nlrv) They knew John. They had spent time with him and had learned from him. They trusted John, so when he pointed them to Jesus, the One God had sent, they left John and followed Jesus. The two disciples spent the evening with Jesus. One of these disciples was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. The other was possibly John since he never referred to himself by name in the book that he wrote. The two disciples listened to Jesus and found out for themselves that He was the one they had been waiting for. Jesus had been sent from God.

Andrew couldn’t keep the good news to himself! “The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon. He told him, ‘We have found the Messiah.’ Messiah means Christ. And he brought Simon to Jesus.” (John 1:41-42 Nlrv) Then and there, Jesus changed Simon’s name to Peter. Peter means “rock.”

The Bible doesn’t tell us exactly what happened after that meeting. It also doesn’t tell us how much time passed. What the Bible does tell us, though, is that one day Jesus was walking along the edge of the Sea of Galilee. (The Sea of Galilee is in the northern part of the country of Israel. It is surrounded by mountains.) There Jesus saw Simon Peter and his brother, Andrew. They were fisherman and they were throwing their net into the lake (Sea of Galilee). “‘Come. Follow Me,’ Jesus said. ‘I will make you fishers of people.’” (Matthew 4:19 Nlrv) They left their nets at once and they followed Jesus.

As they walked a little further from where Jesus had talked to Simon Peter and Andrew, Jesus saw James and his brother John. They were the sons of a man named Zebedee. The brothers were in their boat preparing their nets for fishing because they were also fishermen. “Right away He called out to them. They left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men. Then they followed Jesus.” (Mark 1:20 Nlrv)

These four men, three of whom had already met Jesus, left everything they knew to follow Him. They left their profession, their job as fishermen. They left their family. They saw in Jesus something more valuable than all of that and they chose to follow Him.

“The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow Me.’” (John 1:43 Nlrv) Philip was from Bethsaida, the same town as Peter and Andrew. Philip found Nathanael and told him about Jesus. He said, “We have found the One that Moses wrote about in the Law. The prophets also wrote about Him. He is Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

Application

Just as Jesus gave us an example of baptism . . . He also gave us an example of how to make disciples. He started by choosing students. He continued by teaching them . . . teaching them to obey the same commands He referred to when tempted.

Our memory verse says, "We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too."

1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NLT) When you boil down the idea of making disciples it is about investing your life in someone else to teach them what you know.

That teaching is sometimes formal, like a Bible Study. Many other times, though, you teach people more by the way you live than by what you say.

How about you? Are you teaching someone else what you know? Why not start today? And remember, it's very important to live what you say you believe.

(John 1:45 NIV) They both decided to follow Jesus.

These six men were the very first disciples of Jesus. What exactly is a disciple? A disciple is a pupil, or student, who chooses to learn from a specific teacher. Jesus is the Teacher these men chose to learn from. In one way or another, we are all disciples of someone. Who are you learning from? Whose teaching are you following?

From studying a little more we know some things about these men that Jesus chose. Andrew had been searching for the One God would send. When he realized that Jesus is the One, Andrew wasted no time in following Him. What are you searching for? The Scriptures say that we will search for Him and find Him when we search with all our heart. (Jeremiah 29:13) Do you realize that Jesus is the One your heart is really longing for? Don't waste any time in choosing to follow Him.

Andrew's brother, Simon Peter, is probably the most well known disciple of all. Peter was bold, often speaking before he thought things through, but He was determined to follow Jesus to the death. How is your walk with Jesus? Do you start and stop or are you committed to follow Him until you wake up in heaven looking into His face? (Philippians 1:22-24) Will you be bold?

We don't know a lot about James. We do know that Jesus called James and John "sons of thunder!" Can you imagine what they must have been like? James must have been fierce and passionate about what he believed. (Luke 9:51-56) What is it you are fierce and passionate about? Can people tell from spending time with you that you are in love with Jesus, the One who gave His life to rescue you from sin?

John, also called a "son of thunder," is known as "the disciple Jesus loved." It's not that Jesus loved John more than the others; John was very aware of how much Jesus loved Him and he stayed close to Jesus. We read in James (4:8) that if we come near to God, He will come near to us. Who is it that you spend the most time with? Are you close to God? Are you aware of just how much He loves you? He loves you with an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3)

We have seen just a little of what these first disciples were like. We will learn more about them as we continue to study together. We know that they weren't extraordinary or terribly important. They were everyday, normal men with regular jobs and families. What made them extraordinary was the time they spent with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)

Preparing for the Next Lesson

Nicodemus Visits Jesus



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring a fishing net and Bible.

One day Jesus was walking along the edge of the Sea of Galilee. (The Sea of Galilee is in the northern part of the country of Israel. It is surrounded by mountains.)

There Jesus saw Simon Peter and his brother, Andrew. They were fishermen. They were throwing their net into the Sea of Galilee. Jesus spoke to them. He said, “Come. Follow Me. . . I will make you fishers of people.” (Matthew 4:19 NIV) Peter and Andrew left their nets behind. At once they followed Jesus.

As they walked a little further from where Jesus had talked to Simon Peter and Andrew, Jesus saw James and his brother John. They were the sons of a man named Zebedee.

The brothers were also fishermen. They were in their boat preparing their nets for fishing. “Right away [Jesus] called out to them. They left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men. Then they followed Jesus.” (Mark 1:20 NIV)

“The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow Me.’” (John 1:43 NIV) Philip was from Bethsaida, the same town as Peter and Andrew. Philip found Nathanael and told him about Jesus. They both decided to follow Jesus.

These six men were the very first disciples of Jesus. What exactly is a disciple? A disciple is a pupil, or student. A disciple chooses to learn from a certain teacher. Jesus is the Teacher these men chose to learn from. In one way or another, we are all disciples. Who are you learning from? Whose teaching are you following?



Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Make a chain of hearts from adding machine tape. Print the verse, a word at a time, on each heart. Be sure to include the reference.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring gummy fish or fish crackers for the snack.
- Make origami fish and net. If possible, do this while telling the story.
- Make paper plate fish. These can be made with whole or half paper plates. Simply add fins and decorate as desired. Print Matthew 4:19 on the paper plate.
- Make paper plate or paper bag puppets of the first disciples and reenact the lesson.
- Listen to Chris Rice's song "Come to Jesus."
- Sing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," or another song related to the lesson.
- Find the Sea of Galilee on a map of Israel.
- Dig Deeper: Study through some of the extra verses given throughout the lesson.

We loved you
so much
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God's Good News
but our own lives,
too.

1 Thessalonians 2:8

Trace the letters.

COME

FOLLOW ME

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?

○



Word Search

W Y O U R W O G D O Y O Y Y O
S U R D S N A O N O L A S S Y
E G D U O W R D O Y U O U U O
V N A O N O L S S S E H T R U
I D U Y W O R G R U V R W D R
L S O D R U O O U O I W U R D
N G D E O W R O O Y L O O O R
W E S H A R E D W I T H Y O U
O O R O Y O U N W O W D D R W
R D O L D R O E R U O Y E U R
U N W E O U R W O R R O V O U
O E R L H U D S O W U U O Y O
Y O U R W O R D R O O R L O Y
O Y S N A I N O L A S S E H T
U O Y O U R W O R D R O W R U

Find the underlined words from the memory verse in the puzzle above.

We loved you so much
that we shared with you not only God's Good News
but our own lives, too.
1 Thessalonians 2:8



Word Search

W	Y	O	U	R	W	O	G	D	O	Y	O	Y	Y	O
S	U	R	D	S	N	A	O	N	O	L	A	S	S	Y
E	G	D	U	O	W	R	D	O	Y	U	O	U	U	O
V	N	A	O	N	O	L	S	S	S	E	H	T	R	U
I	D	U	Y	W	O	R	G	R	U	V	R	W	D	R
L	S	O	D	R	U	O	O	U	O	I	W	U	R	D
N	G	D	E	O	W	R	O	O	Y	L	O	O	O	R
W	E	S	H	A	R	E	D	W	I	T	H	Y	O	U
O	O	R	O	Y	O	U	N	W	O	W	D	D	R	W
R	D	O	L	D	R	O	E	R	U	O	Y	E	U	R
U	N	W	E	O	U	R	W	O	R	R	O	V	O	U
O	E	R	L	H	U	D	S	O	W	U	U	O	Y	O
Y	O	U	R	W	O	R	D	R	O	O	R	L	O	Y
O	Y	S	N	A	I	N	O	L	A	S	S	E	H	T
U	O	Y	O	U	R	W	O	R	D	R	O	W	R	U

Find the underlined words from the memory verse in the puzzle above.

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Preschool Word Search

R F I M Y S O N D R E D
S E A O F G A L I L E E
H A R I G U M A U Y T S
R I V A N D R E W A Y S
J L A O L I V F N Y L S
G O J O H N R D Z E E O
R T O R E I V E N M R E
H D E V I J A M E S U S
M D I L E D E S E A T S
D I E M S T I T O R B N
L A K I N G J E S U S J
P E T E R P T E D N L N

JESUS

SEA OF GALILEE

ANDREW

PETER

JAMES

JOHN



Preschool Word Search

R F I M Y S O N D R E D
S E A O F G A L I L E E
H A R I G U M A U Y T S
R I V A N D R E W A Y S
J L A O L I V F N Y L S
G O J O H N R D Z E E O
R T O R E I V E N M R E
H D E V I J A M E S U S
M D I L E D E S E A T S
D I E M S T I T O R B N
L A K I N G J E S U S J
P E T E R P T E D N L N

JESUS

SEA OF GALILEE

ANDREW

PETER

JAMES

JOHN