

Jesus Calls

Lesson 1

Fisher of Men

Mk. 1:16-20, John 1:35-41

The Fishermen Called

Setup:

If you've ever been fishing, you know that it requires patience. Not often can you just drop your line in the water and pull out a fish. There are a lot of things

that need to happen just the right way in order to have a successful fishing trip. Fishing requires some training and learning of skills. What about to be a fisher of men? Not fishing for fish, fishing for men. If this sounds weird to you, Jesus invited some real-life fishermen to do just that, to follow Him and be fishers of men.

It might surprise you that Jesus asked fishermen to be some of His first disciples. These men fished for a living. Not only did they fish for a living, but most of them would have had fathers, uncles, cousins and grandfathers that all fished for a living. In a way, fishing would have been the family business. It wouldn't have been a position of high standing within society, but it would have provided a steady income and provision that was adequate for a family. When Jesus called these fishermen, they would have known very little about Him, except that He was asking them to leave their life of fishing behind. Tonight, you will look at their response to His invitation to follow Him and fish for men. Hopefully you will be challenged in your personal call from Jesus to follow Him.

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Mark 1:16-20, John 1:35-41

The Fishermen Called

Parent Que:

This week your student learned about the call to follow Jesus. Learning from the disciples who were fishermen, students were challenged to consider how they are answering the call to follow Jesus in their own life. Take the opportunity to share this week what you find hard personally being a Christ follower. Many times, young people can think it's easier to follow Jesus as an adult. It is beneficial for them to know that it can still be hard. This creates a realistic expectation for them in their lifelong journey of being a fearless Christ follower, whose ridiculous love and dangerous witness is irresistible to the world around them.

Key Scriptures:

Mark 1:16-20, John 1:35-41

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Fisher of Men

Mk. 1:16-20, John 1:35-41
The Fishermen Called

Your students may feel that the call to “follow Jesus” is not for them. They may feel that way because they are young, or they might think they need to know more about Jesus/God/the Bible. Whatever the case, encourage your students that the call to follow Jesus is for everyone, and they can answer that call even in this season of life. Help them to grab hold of what it looks like as a JH student to follow Jesus and encourage them to run into it.

Share a time when you “followed” someone, and it had a good/ or bad result.

It's not the actual act of following that can lead us to harmful places, it's “who” or “what” we chose to follow. Or if we even chose to follow at all.

➤ [Read Mark 1:16-20](#)

What invitation does Jesus give to Simon, Andrew, James and John?

Do all of them accept the invitation?

What are some of the things that they leave behind in order to follow Jesus?



➤ [Discuss](#)

These fishermen would have grown up with fathers who were also fisherman. This was what they knew. Fishing was life. The call to follow Jesus would require them to leave behind what would have been familiar and comfortable.

Jesus calls us to follow Him today, but what do you think is different about His call to us? What's the same?

In verse 17, Jesus explains that He will teach Simon and Andrew how to fish for people. What do think He meant by that? Do you think they understood?

➤ [Discuss](#)

When it comes to following Jesus, we can let things get in the way.

To challenge our thinking, let's look at what action steps the fisherman took so they could follow Jesus.

Got out of the boat.

Is there a thing you need to step away from? Netflix/ YouTube/ your phone

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Colossians 3:1-2

Dropped their net.

Is there something you need to stop, put down, get rid of?

Hebrews 12:1-3

Left Zebedee in the boat.

It's probably not your father, but is there a person you need to leave behind? Is there a relationship that hinders you from following Jesus?

1 Corinthians 15:33, Proverbs 13:20, & 12:26

➤ [Read John 1:35-41](#)

➤ [Discuss](#)

Who does Andrew go find and tell about Jesus?

Do you share your excitement about Jesus with your friends? If not, why?

The Point

There was not anything extraordinary about the disciples except the fact that they were willing to leave everything behind and fully follow Jesus.

APPLICATION [Read Luke 9:23](#)

What does Jesus say needs to happen in order to follow Him? As a result of what we've talked about tonight, what can you do this week to live as a follower of Jesus and a fisher of men?

➤ [Catch-Up/Journal/Pray](#)

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Lesson 2

Disciple Maker

Mt. 10:1-4, Acts 4:13
The call of the 12

Setup: Last week we looked at how the disciples who were fisherman answered Jesus call to follow Him. This week we will see the specific assignment He gave to 12 of His followers to be His disciples.

Share a story of when you followed someone, or something and it ended up giving you a reputation. (popular, mean, trouble maker...etc.) What we spend our time learning about will likely show to those around us. If we play hours and hours of Fortnite, we may break out in a Fortnite dance at a random moment proving that we are spending a lot of time with that on our screen. Maybe we use a phrase that a celebrity uses on a popular show, or youtube channel. Again, what we spend time learning about, reading, watching, hanging with will show up to others. Would others see in you evidence that you have spent time with Jesus? Do you spend time with Jesus.

A disciple is someone who is trained by someone in a skill, or trade. They put into practice what they have learned.

The word “disciple” refers to “a learner who accepts not only the views of the teacher, but one who attempts to put them into practice.”

(optional) Show a clip from Karate Kid... Example - wax on-wax off

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Lesson 2

Disciple Maker

Mt. 10:1-4, Acts 4:13

The call of the 12

Parent Que:

In our study this week we looked at how Peter and John, 2 of Jesus' disciples lived and spoke in a way that showed they had been WITH Jesus. They were ordinary and uneducated, yet one thing was clear, they had a boldness and it was rooted in a relationship. That relationship that put words in their mouth to communicate effectively to those of higher educations than their own, was they relationship they had with Jesus. Is it evident to your students that you've been with Jesus? What you model to them will impact them as disciples. Give them something to follow. Give them evidence that you've been with Jesus by actually being with Him. Then you can be an example for them, much like Paul was to the Corinthian church: "Follow my example, as I follow Christ"
1 Corinthians 11:1

Key Scripture:

Matthew 10:1-4, Acts 4:13

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Lesson 2

Disciple Maker

Matthew 10:1-4, Acts 4:13
The call of the 12 Disciples

Unschooling and ordinary men, who had been with Jesus. This week the focus will shift from the call to follow Jesus to the choice. Nothing qualifies an individual to be called, but there are requirements to follow.

If someone asked you to join a team or club that focused on this area would you do it? Would your decision change if you were going to spend 3 years learning from an expert in this area?

How would you describe a disciple?

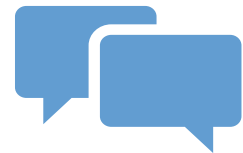
The word “disciple” refers to “a learner who accepts not only the views of the teacher, but one who attempts to put them into practice.”

Last week we looked at some fishermen that Jesus called to follow Him. Jesus also called others to follow Him. Many people chose to follow Jesus, but there were 12 of those followers that He called His disciples. These 12 disciples not only followed Jesus: they learned from Him, were trained by Him and put all of it into practice.

- [Read Matthew 10:1-4, Luke 6:12-13](#)
- [Discuss](#)

Who did Jesus call?

What did Jesus give them authority to do?



The twelve disciples/apostles were ordinary men whom God used in an extraordinary way. The Gospels are filled with stories of their struggles, failures and doubts. After witnessing Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven, the Holy Spirit transformed the disciples into powerful men of God who carried the story of Jesus to the world as dangerous witnesses.

- [Read Acts 4:13](#)

Peter and John were unschooled and ordinary men, but what stood out about them?

Read the following verses and note what characterizes the life of a disciple:

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Matthew 5:16

1 Peter 2:21

John 8:31-32

➤ **Discuss**

If you've been spending time with Jesus it will show to others. Being a disciple is putting in to practice the things we have learned about Jesus.



The Point

Jesus calls us to follow, it's our choice to be a disciple. When we live as a follower of Jesus it is evident to those around us.

APPLICATION

Have I been "with" Jesus? If not, what could I do differently this week to be with Him?

Catch-Up/Journal/Pray

Jesus Calls

Lesson 3

The Door

Matt. 6:5-15, Mat. 7:7-11

The Lord's Prayer/ Ask, Seek, and Knock

Setup:

Have you ever been talking to someone and you know they aren't really listening? How does that make you feel? Share that thought with your neighbor.

Now, switch gears. Has there ever been a time when someone is talking to you and you aren't fully listening to them? Not being heard can be very frustrating when you're the one communicating.

God is always ready to listen to us talk to Him, are we willing and ready to listen? Do we know how to talk to Him? Do we know how to listen?

Communicating with God, or prayer might be uncomfortable for you. If it is, think about why. Talking to a friend and talking to God are very much the same. Communication takes someone talking and someone listening. Maybe you are better at the talking part, and not as good at the listening part.

Jesus knew that talking to God, His Father was necessary. If it was necessary for Jesus, it's definitely necessary for us! Jesus modeled and taught us how to pray, so tonight we will unpack this a bit in our groups. Let's all talk to God together now.

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Lesson 3

The Door

Matt. 6:5-15, Mat. 7:7-11

The Lord's Prayer/ Ask, Seek, and Knock

Parent Que:

This week your students learned about prayer through the example and teaching of Jesus. It's quite profound that this way of communicating was the means that Jesus the Son used to communicate with the Father. How's your communication with your son/daughter? Is there communication? Could it be better? Are you waiting patiently for them to allow you opportunity to communicate, or do you choose persistence and communicate? I'm not talking about communicating the essential things, I am talking about the real stuff of life. Checking in, being available, fully present; not one hand on the remote, or eyes on a screen. Let your student have your full attention. This carries more weight than you even know. Respond to your student the way your Heavenly Father responds to you when you talk. He is available and fully present, hanging on our every word, even though He knows them before we say them!

Key Scriptures:

Matt. 6:5-15, Mat. 7:7-11

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Lesson 3

The Door

Matt. 6:5-15, Mat. 7:7-11

The Lord's Prayer/ Ask, Seek, and Knock

Feeling uncomfortable and unsure about how to pray is normal for many people. Help your students to see prayer as an opportunity to grow in their relationship with God. They can be sure He is listening and as they get to know Him more they will hear what God is saying to them. Just like our relationships with our good friends, as we grow deeper in friendship our communication grows along with that. Sometimes no one even needs to say a word and you know what the other is thinking.

Who is your favorite person to talk to?

How do you like to talk with them?

What if they were talking to you and you didn't respond?

➤ Discuss

Tonight, we are going to look at the practice of prayer and what Jesus taught us about praying. Prayer is conversation with God. It isn't hard or complex, and we have a great examples and teaching from Jesus.

Do you pray? If so, what does that look like in your life right now?

What is easier or more comfortable for you: praying alone or with others? Why?



➤ Read Matthew 6:5-15

This passage is often called "The Lord's Prayer". Jesus gives clear and specific ways to pray and not pray. Make a list of prayer "do's and don'ts" according to what Jesus taught in this passage.

Do pray like this:

Don't pray like this:

➤ Read Mat. 7:7-11

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How does Jesus encourage us to pray in this passage?

This doesn't mean God will give us whatever we ask for. What does this passage teach us about praying?

We see Jesus pray persistently when he faced the cross.

- [Read Matthew 26:39, 42, & 44](#)

How many times do we see Jesus asking God the Father for the same thing?

God heard His Son, yet He knew in order to carry out the perfect plan of redemptive love it would require the sacrifice of His Son. God knows what is best. It may not be easy, or make any sense, but we trust Him.

- [Read Luke 6:12](#) [Mark 1:35](#) [John 14:16](#) [Matthew 14:19, 23](#)

What can be learned about prayer from Jesus' example from each of these verses?



Jesus often taught about prayer. He didn't just teach about it, He practiced it. If prayer was important to Jesus, it should be important to us.

APPLICATION

At the beginning of the lesson we talked about what praying looks like in your life right now. What would you like it to look like? What can you do differently to make that happen?

- [Catch-Up/Journal/Pray](#)