

Follow Jesus

“Immediately they left their nets and followed him...”



Disciple:

A follower or student of a teacher, leader, or philosopher



LORD:

Someone or something having power, authority, or influence; a master or ruler.



Follow:

Act according to the lead or example of a teacher or guide.

Becoming a Disciple of Jesus...

Being a disciple of Jesus doesn't mean ascribing to a specific Christian doctrine, church, or church leader...

Following Jesus is about one thing—one person actually, Jesus. Every disciple interacts with Jesus in a different way and comes to know him more fully at different rates. In our time together, we will be looking at some of the most basic reactions the biblical disciples had in response to Jesus.

1

WHO AM I?

How do you identify yourself in relationship to God?

2

WHO IS HE?

Who is Jesus to you?
Who is he to others?
Who does he say he is?

3

WHAT DOES HE MEAN FOR US TODAY?

Is Jesus still relevant in your life and the world?

Becoming a Disciple...

Let's look at the earliest of the disciples and some of their experiences of Jesus.

Take a look at the disciples actions in the following passage from Mark:

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

[*The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version*](#). (1989). (Mk 1:14–20). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.



Fishing for People— Jeremiah's Perspective

Lookup Jeremiah 16:16

How did all four disciples react to the call that Jesus gave them?

What differences do you see in the way they responded?

Do you think they understood what the call meant?

WHAT DO WE LEAVE BEHIND?

For many of us, the call to follow Christ has been a part of our upbringing and we've never known any different. In this situation, what are those areas of your life that Christ calls you to leave behind?

Do you feel a call to a specific ministry that would necessitate changes in your daily life? Further education?



What were they thinking?

What do you imagine went through the minds of the early disciples when they first heard Jesus request to follow him?

What do you think they knew of this man? Did they think of him as a Rabbi, teacher, prophet, carpenter? Was he unknown to them?

Think of other stories that take place at the same time as this, found in other Gospels, that show us more about the calling of the disciples. What can you learn from them?

Other Call Stories of Jesus:

Luke 5:1-11

Luke 5:27-32

John 1:35-42

John 1:43-51



The 4th-century synagogue at Capernaum to the left was built over the original synagogue in which Jesus, Peter, and others would have worshipped. The dark basalt stones are from Jesus' time and form the foundation of the existing synagogue seen here. The home of Peter was located just a few yards to the right of this picture and the shoreline of the Sea of Galilee about 100 yards away.

FINDING A SAFE PLACE...

In Matthew's version of today's story, Jesus, "withdrew to Galilee," specifically to Capernaum from where he would accomplish most of his earthly ministry. Sometimes in life we need "safe places" where we can heal, find comfort, prepare, and get the rest and perspective we need to do God's work. Where is your "safe place?"

What do you need most from the above paragraph to accomplish what God has called you to do?