

THE GOOD NEWS BIBLE STUDY



FOLLOW ME

JOHN 1; MATTHEW 4:18-22; MARK 1:16-20; LUKE 5:1-11

We will explore the Word becoming Flesh and the calling of the first disciples. This significant moment marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry alongside His first followers. These passages give us insight into the nature of Jesus' call to discipleship and the immediate response of those who would become His closest companions and co-laborers in sharing the good news of the kingdom.

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THE WORD MADE FLESH

The Eternal Word (John 1:1-5)

- **Key Points:**

- The Word was with God and was God from the beginning
- The Word is the source of life and light
- The darkness cannot overcome the light of Christ

John the Baptist's Witness (John 1:6-8, 19-34)

- **Key Points:**

- John the Baptist as a witness to the light
- His testimony about the one coming after him
- The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

The Word Becomes Flesh (John 1:14, 16-18)

- **Key Points:**

- The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us
- We have seen his glory, full of grace and truth
- Grace in place of grace





THINK ABOUT

- How does John's description of Jesus as the "Word made flesh" (John 1:14) impact your understanding of who Jesus is?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)?
- How do you respond to Jesus' invitation to "come and see" (John 1:39)?

THE CALL OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES

The Context of Calling (Matthew 4:18–20; Mark 1:16–18)

- **Key Points:**

- As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon Peter and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea – they were fishermen.
- Jesus calls out to them, saying, "Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people."
- Immediately, they leave their nets and follow Him. This quick and decisive response sets the tone for the nature of discipleship.

The Calling of James and John (Matthew 4:21–22; Mark 1:19–20)

- **Key Points:**

- Jesus moves further along the shore and sees James and John, the sons of Zebedee, in their boat preparing their nets.
- He calls them as well, and without hesitation, they leave their father Zebedee in the boat, along with hired men, to follow Jesus.
- The willingness to leave behind family and livelihood illustrates the radical commitment required to be a disciple of Christ.

The First Followers (John 1:35–51)

- **Key Points:**

- John the Baptist points to Jesus as the Lamb of God
- Andrew brings his brother Simon Peter
- Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael
- "Come and see" – the invitation to experience Jesus



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The Miraculous Catch of Fish (Luke 5:1-11)

- **Key Points:**

- In Luke's account, we see more detail about the context of the calling. Jesus is teaching by the Sea of Gennesaret (another name for the Sea of Galilee), and a crowd is pressing in to hear.
 - After teaching, Jesus tells Simon to put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch. Simon initially protests, saying they have worked hard all night and caught nothing, but he ultimately complies.
 - When they let down the nets, they catch such a large number of fish that their nets begin to break, requiring the help of James and John.
 - Realizing the miracle, Simon Peter falls at Jesus' knees, exclaiming, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"
 - Jesus reassures Simon Peter, saying, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." This final call culminates with the disciples leaving everything to follow Jesus.
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THINK ABOUT

- **Immediate Response:**

- Why do you think Peter and Andrew responded so quickly to Jesus' invitation to follow Him?
- What can we learn from Andrew's example of immediately finding his brother Simon (John 1:40-42)?
- What does this teach us about discipleship and the nature of God's call?

- **Leaving Everything:**

- What does it mean to leave behind one's nets (or 'comforts') to follow Jesus?
- How can we apply this principle in our own lives?

- **Faith and Obedience:**

- How do Peter's three responses in Luke 5:1-11 (doubt, confession, and commitment) mirror our own spiritual journeys?



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- How does Nathanael's initial skepticism and subsequent confession ("Rabbi, you are the Son of God") model a journey of faith?
 - Can you identify a time when you hesitated but eventually took a step of faith?
 - **Miracles and Faith:** What role do you think the miracle of the catch played in Simon Peter's response to Jesus? How do miracles help strengthen our faith and calling?
 - **Identity in Christ:** Simon Peter felt unworthy in the presence of Jesus. How does Jesus' response to Peter—affirming his call—speak to our feelings of inadequacy or sinfulness?
 - **"Fishing for People":** What does it mean to "fish for people" in today's context? How can we apply this calling in our own lives as we seek to share the gospel?
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LIFE APPLICATION

- **Respond to Jesus' Call:** Are there areas in your life where Jesus is calling you to step out in faith? Take practical steps this week to respond to that call.
 - **Cultivate a Discipleship Mindset:** Consider ways you can deepen your commitment to discipleship—such as studying Scripture regularly, participating in community, or serving others.
 - **Share Your Story:** Think about how you can share your faith with others this week. Perhaps through an invitation to church, a conversation about your beliefs, or simply living out your faith in visible ways.
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CONCLUSION

The calling of the first disciples reveals the radical nature of following Jesus and the immediate impact it has on our lives. It challenges us to consider what we are willing to give up in order to follow Him. As we study this week, may we be inspired to respond to Jesus' call with urgency and to embrace our roles as fishers of people in the mission of sharing the gospel.

