

FOUR FISHERMEN CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS

Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

STRUCTURE

Key-persons: Jesus and Peter

Key-location: Lake Galilee

Key-repetitions:

- Fishing/casting nets (Mat 4:18; Lk 5:4, 5, 6, 9, 10).
- Fishermen (Mat 4:18, 19; Lk 5:2, 11).
- Nets (Mat 4:18, 20, 21; Lk 5:2, 4, 5, 6).
- Boat (Mat 4:21, 22; Lk 5:2, 3 (2 times), 7 (2 times), 11).
- Sin (Jn 1:19; Lk 5:8).

Key-attitudes:

- Jesus' confidence when he ordered Simon to let his nets out for a catch. And, when he invited the fishermen to follow him.
- Peter's reluctance to let his net out after not catching any fish all night.
- Peter's fear of Jesus after catching the large number of fish.
- Fishermen's astonishment at the large number of fish caught.
- Fishermen's trust in Jesus when they left their nets and boats to follow Jesus.

Initial-situation:

When Jesus began the first year of his ministry, he was unknown outside of his home town of Nazareth. John the Baptist was famous, and crowds were going to hear him and to be baptized by him.

Jesus began his public ministry at the Jordan River when he was baptized by John. Then, in the desert, Jesus resisted temptations from Satan. After his temptations, Jesus returned to where John was baptizing.

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and identified Jesus as the Lamb of God. Two of John's disciples followed Jesus and spent the rest of the day with him. Andrew brought his brother Simon Peter to Jesus. Philip brought his friend Nathanael to Jesus. The four men made several trips with Jesus.

King Herod imprisoned John the Baptist. After John the Baptist was imprisoned, Jesus began his second year of public ministry. He moved from the town of Nazareth to Capernaum, a city in Galilee.

Initial-problem:

Jesus walked beside Lake Galilee and saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake.

Final-situation:

Four fishermen left their nets and boats to follow Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus walked beside Lake Galilee and saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, because they were fishermen (Mat 4:18).

Jesus stood beside Lake Galilee. People crowded around him listening to the word of God. Jesus noticed two boats at the shore of the lake. Jesus got into the boat belonging to Simon Peter, and asked Peter to put out a little from shore. Then Jesus sat down and taught the people with stories from the boat.

Jesus finished speaking and told Simon Peter, "Push out into deep water, and let your nets out for a catch."

Simon Peter answered, "Master, we worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I'll let out the nets."

The fishermen let out the nets and immediately they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. They signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They filled both boats so full that they were almost sinking.

Simon Peter fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I'm a sinful man!" Peter and all his coworkers were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken.

Jesus told Simon Peter, "Don't be afraid; from now on you'll catch people" (Lk 5:1-11).

Jesus called to Peter and his brother Andrew, "Come follow me, and I'll make you fishers of men." At once they dropped their nets and followed him.

Then Jesus went to where James and his brother John were sitting in a boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called James and John, and immediately they left their father in the boat with the hired servants and followed Jesus (Mat 4:18-22; Mk 1:20).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

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| 1. What catches your attention in the story? | 5. How did the characters face their problems? |
| 2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand? | 6. How have you faced similar problems? |
| 3. Who are the main characters in the story? | 7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you? |
| 4. What problems did the characters face? | 8. What does the story tell about God? |

SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What prior knowledge did the four fishermen have about Jesus before they followed him?

2. What events surrounded Jesus' calling the four fishermen?
3. What was Jesus' command that Peter reluctantly obeyed?
4. What happened when Peter reluctantly obeyed Jesus?
5. Why do we sometimes reluctantly obey Jesus?
6. What did the fishermen renounce in order to follow Jesus?
7. What must people today renounce in order to follow Jesus?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. **To follow Jesus requires renouncement.** The fishermen who followed Jesus left their boats, nets, professions and families (Mat 4:18-22).
2. **Jesus' followers obey his orders, even if they don't agree with them.** Jesus ordered Peter to cast the fish net; but for Peter, it made no sense. It was not the best hour to catch fish. Peter was unmotivated to try since he had fished all night without catching anything. However, Peter obeyed because he considered that Jesus had the right to give him orders (Lk 5:4-5).
3. **Only when the person recognizes that he is a sinner, unworthy of divine favors, does he become someone who is useful in the Kingdom of God.** When Peter admitted that he was a sinner, Jesus invited him to become his disciple (Lk 5:8-10).
4. **Jesus looks for busy people to follow him.** Jesus called the fishermen who were busy with their activities (Mat 4:18-22).
5. **Jesus transforms the priorities of his followers.** Fishers of fish were transformed into fishers of men (Mat 4:19).

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Role-playing Drama:

Invite a man and a woman to role play a part. Give them the following instructions: "Imagine you are Zebedee and his wife. Zebedee was in the boat with his two sons, James and John, when they left to follow Jesus. Zebedee walks into his house and his wife greets him with, "Supper is ready. Where are the boys?" Imagine the dialogue that followed.