

Date – May 2, 2021

Scripture/Bible Story/Theme

Matthew 4, 9, Mark 1, 2, 3, Luke 5, 6

Children's Illustrated Bible – p. 210-211

Jesus Calls His Disciples and You!

Workshop Name

Cellphone Messages/Texts/Tweets to and from God

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord,

Learning about those who were your disciples is a good reminder to us as we learn to be your disciples also. Amen

Objectives

1. Locate the story in the New Testament.
2. Retell the story in their own words.
3. Know what a "disciple" is and ways Jesus calls us.
4. Feel called to follow Jesus.
5. Consider what in your life or attitude you need to put aside in order to follow.
6. Understand that Kids' Kingdom is training camp for disciples.

Supplies – Pens or pencils will be needed at home. The supply bag will have the sheets of paper with the blanks to be filled in to complete the messages either by text, phone or tweets. Pages 3 and 4 below has those blanks.

Activity

Important Notes—

About the Story's Setting

The Sea of Galilee, also known as Kinneret, Lake of Gennesaret, or Lake Tiberias, is the largest freshwater lake in Israel. About 30 fishing towns surrounded the Sea of Galilee during Jesus' time, the largest town being Capernaum. It is a fresh water lake and it is from this "sea" that Israel's homes have water. The Sea of Galilee is the location of the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

The Disciples

Jesus' calling of his first disciples is one of the most remembered stories of the Bible. The event is recorded in all four gospels, although it is described slightly differently in each of them. The first four disciples called were two pairs of brothers — Simon Peter & Andrew and James & John, the sons of Zebedee. (Luke does not mention Andrew in his version.) It is interesting that Jesus called brothers and indicates that there's something powerful about families following Christ together. Who are these brothers? While they may have been simple fishermen, this is not to say they weren't community leaders or unskilled in the Torah. Indeed, Peter's brother Andrew, whom Luke doesn't immediately mention in the story, was a disciple of John the Baptist. Andrew seems to have met Jesus before Peter did. When John the Baptist points out Jesus, saying "Behold the Lamb" Andrew begins to follow Jesus. One of the first people Andrew was called to bring to Christ was his brother Peter. Then Andrew was required to take a back seat and allow his older brother to be the lead disciple. James, son of Zebedee, was the older brother to John. James had a fishing partnership with Peter and Andrew. He and his brother were bold and energetic.

John was the younger brother to James. Like Andrew, he had heard John the Baptist say "Behold the Lamb" and became willing to be a disciple. One thing we can conclude from these backgrounds is that the first disciples were likely "seekers." They had taken the time to go hear John the Baptist. They were receptive though not yet believers.

Edited from Workshop Rotation

Continuing with a brief study of Daily Life In Jesus' Time we will read p. 209 together. Last week we read p. 208. This little side point is intended to help the students understand a little bit about the environment in which Jesus lived.

Important for the children to realize is that the word "disciple" means "follower" or "learner."

Cellphone Messages from Jesus

Working individually or in pairs, divide up the following "suggested voicemails" and have the students write or practice a voicemail script based on the suggestion. Then they practice them and perhaps read them to your family.

- Jesus leaves you voicemail to get out of bed on Sunday to come learn in Kids' Kingdom.
- Jesus leaves you voicemail to ask you to bring that un-churched friend with you to Kids' Kingdom.
- Jesus leaves you voicemail to ask you to stop acting like _____ because your actions are giving Christians a bad name.
- Jesus leaves you voicemail describing something he wants you to "give up" in order to become a better disciple of his.

Disciple Texting

Use the following blanks to complete the text messages.

Cellphone Text Messages:

Jesus, It's me _____, and I realize that I need to start _____ in order to follow you more closely. Could use some help with that!

Jesus, I'm concerned about _____ and I want to help you with _____.

Jesus, It's me _____ texting about team practice time interfering with church. What can I do about that?

Rev. Susie If you could change one thing in church what would it be? Then I will stop complaining about _____ in church. Deal?

Disciple Tweets

Twitter "Tweets" (140 letters or less)

@MyFamily We need to improve our Sunday mornings by doing/changing the following things: _____ #AwesomeFamily

@MyChurch: We need to be doing more to help _____ in our town. I also think I can raise \$5 to help others by doing this: _____ #MissionRocks!

@JesusChrist: Following you would be a lot easier if you would do this for me: _____ #HelpMyFaith

@FakeChristians: If you really believe in Jesus, you will stop _____ and start _____ #WalktheWalk

Reflection/Evaluation

What call have you received from Jesus? How have you answered that call? What more can you do to answer his call?

Lord's Prayer

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