

JESUS CALLS THE FIRST DISCIPLES

Mark 1:16-20

Prepare to Hear the Word:

Locate Galilee and the Sea of Galilee on a map.

Fishing was a very important industry in Galilee, there would have been many fishermen on and around the Sea. The Sea of Galilee is a large inland fresh-water lake, it was about twelve kilometres wide and twenty kilometres long.

All four men responded 'immediately' to Jesus' invitation, leaving their families and their jobs, which probably means that they already knew Jesus.

You will need:

- Wooden fishing boat, net and a few fish.
- Sea of Galilee backdrop,
- Blue oval felt on green circle.
- 6 puppets - Jesus, 5 fishermen.

When children are seated in a semi-circle ready to listen to the story, place the gold box/bag, containing the materials you will need, carefully beside you.

Spread the green circle and place the blue felt oval in the middle with the fishing boat on top. Stand the Sea of Galilee backdrop behind the circle facing the children.

Move Jesus along the side of the lake and say:

Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee.

Place Simon and Peter with some fishing net on the side of the lake in front of Jesus, say:

He saw two brothers; Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew.

They were fishermen and they were casting a net into the sea.

Hold your hand over Jesus and say:

Jesus said to them, "Come and follow me and I will make you fishers of people".

Move Simon and Andrew over to Jesus and say:

Straight away they left their nets and followed him.

Move Jesus, Simon and Andrew towards the boat and say:

Jesus walked a little further and saw James and his brother John.

They were in a boat with their father Zebedee mending their nets.

Move James and John over to Jesus and say:

Jesus called them and immediately they left their father with the hired men and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

I Wonder:

- I wonder did these fishermen already know Jesus when he called them?
- I wonder how Zebedee felt when his sons went off with Jesus?
- I wonder what Jesus meant when he said, "I will make you 'fishers of people'"?
- I wonder what time of the day it was? – Simon and Andrew were casting out nets while James and John were mending nets.
- I wonder if all this happened on the same day.

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

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As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Prepare to Hear the Word: **Teacher.**

Mark constructed his scenario carefully. He presented a Jesus who did not work alone. Right from the start Jesus was surrounded by a core group of disciples. This was obviously important to Mark. He placed the call of the disciples right at the beginning of Jesus' public life because it was important that the disciples were there from the very beginning, who were close to Jesus and who were able to hand on their authority, their spirit and their insights to the growing churches.

Also the disciples together constituted a "parable in action", they were a small community. Jesus' view of the Kingdom was essentially one of people in relationships of mutual respect and interdependence. The essential expression of Jesus' vision for the world was one of selfless love and service. These attitudes could not be developed and lived in a vacuum. Only in community could people discover, release and build on their own particular giftedness. The continuing narrative would show that the disciples struggled in this task. The first four persons chosen as disciples were fishermen.

Together in Galilee John McKinnon 2006

