

4 year olds, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade Bible Lesson 4-26-20

Jesus Called Disciples

Matthew 4:4-22; Matthew 9:9-12; Mark 3:13-18

<p><u>Story Point:</u> Jesus chose disciples to follow Him.</p> <p><u>Memory Verse:</u> “He must become greater; I must become less.” John 3:30</p> <p><u>Gospel Gems:</u> Jesus chose twelve disciples. Jesus taught His disciples about God’s plan. People who love Jesus are also His disciples.</p>
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PARENTS ONLY: Bible Study Guide

In the first century, rabbi was a title given to a respected expert in the law of Moses. A rabbi studied the Scriptures and taught through speaking and writing. Jews wanted to honor God in how they lived, and they looked to the rabbis to instruct them in their behavior.

The word rabbi translates “my master.” Jewish students would seek out a rabbi and ask to follow him. A rabbi would choose only a few highly-promising students to be his disciples. If a student was not accepted by the rabbi, he likely returned home to learn a trade. Those chosen to be a rabbi’s disciples followed him everywhere. They learned from the rabbi how to think and how to act. They trusted the rabbi, and the goal was to become just like him.

When Jesus chose His disciples, His strategy was unusual. Rather than waiting for students to come to Him, Jesus sought out His disciples among the people who followed Him. He found them working—fishing and repairing nets. Some of Jesus’ disciples were introduced to Him by their friends. He approached these ordinary men and said, “Follow Me.” Their response? “Immediately they left ... and followed him” (Matt. 4:20,22).

The Twelve—Simon (Peter) and his brother Andrew; James and John; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James, son of Alphaeus; Thaddaeus; Simon; and Judas—spent time with Jesus during His ministry. Jesus taught them how to live in light of God’s coming kingdom. He commissioned them to teach others about Him. The good news about Jesus is too great to not share with the entire world.

The call to follow Jesus is not an easy one. Jesus said, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me” (Matt. 16:24). Jesus calls us to do the same—to surrender our lives for His purposes and perhaps even to die. “For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it” (Matt. 16:25).

Bible Discussion:

Jesus began teaching people about God and His Kingdom. In Bible times, disciples chose a teacher to follow, but Jesus chose disciples to follow Him. Jesus’ disciples left everything behind to follow Jesus. We are Jesus’ disciples when we trust in Him. Jesus gives us the special job of telling people about Him. Everyone in the world needs to hear about Jesus.

Let’s listen to our Bible story and hear how Jesus chose His disciples.

Bible Story: Jesus Called Disciples – Matthew 4:4-22; 9:9-12; Mark 3:13-18

PARENTS:

This lesson is paraphrased and in story form. The scripture references are listed above if you choose to read directly from the Bible. We encourage you to open the Bible either way you choose to share this lesson.

Jesus' ministry had begun. Jesus taught people about God and His Kingdom. People started talking about Jesus and the things He was saying. They wanted to know more, so big crowds of people followed Jesus to hear Him teach.

One day, Jesus was walking along the sea. He saw two brothers: Simon – who was called Peter – and Andrew. Peter and Andrew were fishermen. They were throwing nets into the sea to catch fish.

Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will teach you to fish for people!" Peter and Andrew dropped their nets right away and followed Jesus.

Later, Jesus saw two more brothers: James and John. They were in a boat with their father. The men were fixing their fishing nets. Jesus talked to them and they got up, too. James and John left their father and their boat, and they followed Jesus.

Jesus traveled further, and He saw a man named Matthew, also called Levi. Matthew was a tax collector, sitting at an office where people paid taxes. Some people didn't like tax collectors because they often took more money than they were supposed to and kept it for themselves. Jesus said to Matthew, "Follow Me!" Matthew got up and leaving everything behind, he followed Jesus.

Matthew had a big party at his house for Jesus and His friends. Tax collectors and other sinners came. The religious leaders did not think Jesus should be friends with people who did wrong things. They asked Jesus' disciples, "Why does Jesus eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus heard the leaders and said, "People who are healthy do not need a doctor, but sick people do. I did not come to help good people; I came to help sinners turn back to God."

Later, Jesus chose 12 of His friends to be His disciples. That meant Jesus was going to give them a special job to do. They would work with Jesus and tell others about Him.

These are the men Jesus chose: Simon (who was called Peter), Simon's brother Andrew, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus (al FEE uhs), Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot.

Review Questions:

- What were Simon Peter and Andrew doing when Jesus called them to follow Him? (*fishing*)
- What did Jesus say to them? (*"Follow Me, and I will teach you to fish for people."*)
- What was Matthew's job before He started following Jesus? (*tax collector*)
- Was Jesus friends with people that were sinners? (*yes*)
- How many men did Jesus choose to be His disciples? (*Twelve*)

Christ Connection – (all stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus)

“Jesus came to earth to show what God is like and save people from their sins. This is very good news! Jesus told His disciples to tell people about Him, and we are Jesus’ disciples when we trust in Him. Everyone in the world needs to hear about Jesus.”

Bible Activities pages:

- Access: **4 years – 1st Grade Activity pages 4-26-20** online.
- The first page is a coloring sheet.
- Following the color sheet are activity pages.
- Follow the directions on the Activity pages.

Activity Resource pages: (supplemental)

- Access: **4 years – 1st Grade Activity Resources 4-26-20** online.
- These are supplemental activities you can do with your child/children.

Craft:

- Access the craft page: **4 years – 1st Grade Craft 4-26-20** online.
- Follow the directions on the craft page.

Missions Moment:

SAY:

“We have been learning about Missionary Aviation Fellowship, MAF, and how they are helping make sure everyone in the world hears about Jesus. We can be a part of what MAF is doing in three ways:

1. We can send supplies through MAF, like Bibles and school supplies.
2. We can adopt an airplane and give money to help keep it running.
3. We can pray! Let’s do that now.

(Say a prayer with your child/children for MAF)

Prayer

“God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to save us from our sin. Help us to be like the disciples and share the good news about Jesus with the people around us. Show us how to be more like You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”