



## ADVENT

### **A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

We are about to explore a part of the book of Matthew where Jesus calls his disciples to follow him. Jesus chose specific men he wanted to do life with, love, teach, and disciple in what it looked to live in God's Kingdom. They were going to carry on Jesus' message after He left to be with the Father again.

### **Call to Worship**

*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come. You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will, they were created and have their being." - Revelation 4:8,11*

### **Starter**

#### **Evidence of Grace**

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. Take time to thank God together.

#### **Discussion Question(s):**

- What does it mean to be a disciple of someone?

### **Text**

## **Matthew 4:18-22**

## **Big Idea: FOLLOW ME**

**Feel free to read the “Let’s Go” story on page 208 in The Jesus Storybook Bible. This is the story of Jesus being tempted in the desert and then Jesus choosing his helpers. Then, you could supplement the story with any further details below or ask the kids questions from the dialogue questions.**

**There is also a great video from Saddleback Kids on YouTube on Jesus calling Peter to follow him. Just search “Saddleback Kids Jesus calls Peter video”.**

### **Summary**

Jesus is about to set out on his ministry to proclaim that the Kingdom of God has come, for people to repent, and turn from worshipping idols to worship God. One day Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee when he saw two brothers. One of those brothers was named Andrew and the other brother was named Simon (Jesus would later change his name to Peter). Andrew and Simon were fisherman. How they made a living and provided for their families is by fishing in the Sea of Galilee for fish. Jesus sees them getting ready to fish and He says to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” They might have looked at each other and asked, “What is this guy talking about?” But they had heard about this Jesus and they had heard that He was the Messiah that they had been waiting for. So Simon and Andrew left their boats, their nets, their jobs to go and follow Jesus and to learn from him.

There were other disciples that Jesus asked to come and follow him. Matthew goes on to say that Jesus also saw two other brothers. James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John were also fisherman and they were on a boat with their dad getting the nets ready to go out and fish. Jesus said to James and John, “Come and follow me.” The Bible says that immediately James and John left their boat and their dad and followed Jesus.

Andrew and Peter left their jobs to go and follow Jesus. This meant that their families would have had to figure out life without the sons, or husbands, or dads. Their families would have had to figure out how they were going to pay their bills and their taxes.

James and John not only left their jobs as fisherman too, but they also left their dad chillin in the boat. James and John worked with their dad. Their dad probably taught them how to fish and taught them their trade with the hopes that they would learn the family business and take it over one day. Now Jesus comes along and James and John leave to go follow Jesus. Zebedee, their dad, was left to carry on the family business all by himself.

Jesus’ command to follow Him was not a call to just accompany Jesus on a road trip because He needed some company along the way. The call to His disciples to follow him was a calling to learn what Jesus taught, learn Jesus’ heart for God and others, learn how to serve, and to learn what it meant to live in God’s Kingdom that Jesus was to usher in. Just like how James and John learned the family business of fishing from their father with the hopes that they would take over the family business one day, Jesus was also teaching his disciples the family business of proclaiming, modeling, and living in God’s Kingdom because Jesus knew that they would carry on the family business when He left to once again go be with God.

### **Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all.**

- In what ways is Jesus calling you to follow him?
- Every one of the disciples left something or someone behind in order to follow Jesus, what might be some things that Jesus is asking you to leave behind and fully trust Jesus with your life?
- The other disciples were from different backgrounds, jobs, and families, how do you think they all got along with one another at first?
- Are there people in your life that are trying to follow Jesus too, but are hard for you to love?
- If you have trusted Jesus with your heart, life, and loyalties, how should you live in relationship to God, to others, and to God's created world while you wait?

### **Breakout Time**

#### **Pray:**

God, I know you are the one true living God who created everything. You created the earth and everything on the earth. You created me. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus so I can be forgiven for worshiping other things. Forgive me for sometimes worshiping other things than you. I repent. Holy Spirit, please work in my heart to love God and love others in a way that points them to Jesus and your Kingdom. May our hearts be filled with love for you and for others in response to what you have done in and through your Son Jesus and the story you have invited us to now participate in. Help me think of my community this week and how I can love them well so they might know you better.

### **Craft**

The kids can color the following picture.

# Jesus Calls his Disciples

