

the life of  
**Jesus**

Date: 2.2.25 | Title: Jesus Calls His Disciples |

Scripture: Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9-13, 10:1-15; Mark 1:16-20, 2:13-17, 3:13-21; Luke 5:1-11, 5:27-32, 9:1-6, John 1:35-51

## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

### Middle School Students:

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.  
God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.  
God wants us to live for His glory.  
God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.  
The Gospels tell us about the life and ministry of Jesus

### High School Students:

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.  
God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.  
God wants us to live for His glory.  
God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.  
Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies and promises.  
Jesus gave His life for us on the cross and He is the only way for salvation.  
The Gospels tell us about the life and ministry of Jesus



### MEMORY VERSE

"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him."

1 John 4:9



## INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

If you were going to build your own team, what qualities would you look for in the people around you? Would you want teammates who are strong? fast? tough? smart? Why would you choose people with those traits?

When Jesus began His ministry, He chose a group of 12 men to follow Him. Today, we will learn more about the men He chose and how we can follow Him too!



## BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Over the past several weeks, we have been learning about the life of Jesus. God fulfilled His promise to send the Savior when Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem. Jesus was born to parents who were faithful to the law and Jesus recognized quickly that His purpose was to fulfill God the Father's plans. Jesus was baptized as an act of obedience to God and a relation to the sinners He came to save. After Jesus' baptism and His public identification as "God's beloved Son", the Holy Spirit anoints and empowers Jesus. Jesus' temptation by the devil in the wilderness is the last preparatory event before his public ministry begins. Jesus never sinned. He trusted God in all things. Today, we will learn how Jesus called ordinary men to follow Him and become His disciples.

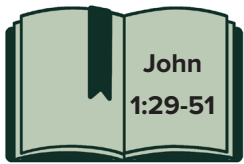
The word "disciple" means "learner" or "pupil". The people Jesus called to follow Him during His earthly ministry are called disciples. The early disciples of Jesus had a first-hand account of the life and teachings of Jesus. They were chosen by Jesus to begin the church and share the gospel with all people. We become Jesus' disciples through hearing the gospel, repenting of sin, and believing in Jesus as our Savior.

As Jesus began His ministry, He called His disciples to serve and travel alongside Him. Discipleship entailed physically following one's teacher or rabbi to receive training. For the next three years, Jesus' disciples would hear His teachings, see miracles, and experience life with the Savior of the world.

Jesus' first disciples were originally disciples of John the Baptist. They now understood that Jesus is the Messiah they had believed would come.

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## LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



Locate the scripture in the Bible: Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9-13, 10:1-15; Mark 1:16-20, 2:13-17, 3:13-21; Luke 5:1-11, 5:27-32, 9:1-6 and John 1:29-51 (the primary scripture for today)

Remind your group that we are now studying the New Testament. The first four books, the gospels, tell the story of Jesus' time as a man on earth from the voice of different authors.

**TELL  
THE  
STORY**



**Tell the story:**

Today we are going to learn about how 6 of Jesus' disciples came to follow Him and do ministry alongside the Savior.

**Andrew, John, and Simon Peter**

**John 1:29-42; Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; also see Luke 5:1-11**

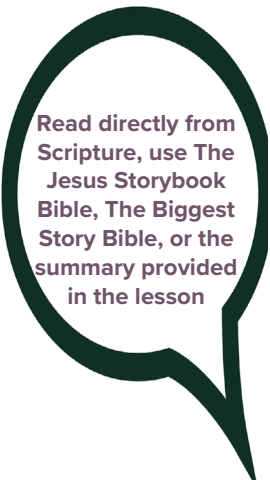
After John the Baptist baptized Jesus, he saw Jesus coming toward Him and he said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" Jesus was the One John had been talking about- the One who was greater than John, who existed before him. "This is the Son of God!" John said.

Later, John was standing with two of his disciples (one was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, most likely the other was John, the son of Zebedee) when he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

John's disciples heard this and followed Jesus. Jesus saw them and asked, "What are you looking for?" Jesus was asking what they were hoping to gain in life by following Christ?

They said, "Teacher, where are you staying?"

"Come and see," Jesus replied. Jesus invited the disciples to investigate Him further. They went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day.



Read directly from Scripture, use The Jesus Storybook Bible, The Biggest Story Bible, or the summary provided in the lesson



Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...



One of the two who followed Jesus was named Andrew. Andrew found his brother Simon and said, “We have found the Messiah!” Andrew brought Simon to Jesus. Later, Andrew brought others to Jesus as well. When Jesus saw him, He said, “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which is translated “Peter” and means “rock” or “stone”). In Bible times, God frequently changed people’s names to indicate their special calling (ex: Abram- Abraham and Jacob- Isreal). Peter would become a solid leader in the early church.

Some time later, as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon Peter and his brother, Andrew fishing. He told them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”. Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. After already spending some time with the brothers, Jesus now called them to leave their lives and businesses as fishermen to follow Him in long term discipleship. As the three continued on, they saw the other set of brothers, James and John in a boat with their father mending their fishing nets. Jesus also called to James and John and “immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him.”

\*It is probable that Luke 5:1-11 an expanded version of the events in Matthew 4:18-22 and Mark 1:16-20.

**Phillip and Bartholomew/Nathanael**

**John 1:43-51**

The next day, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. Jesus found Phillip and told him, “Follow Me”

Phillip was from the same town as Andrew and Peter. Philip went to Nathanael and said “We have found the Messiah- the one Moses and the prophets wrote about. He is Jesus, the son of Joseph, from Nazareth.

“Can anything good come from Nazareth?” Nathanael asked. Nazareth was very small and insignificant.

Phillip answered, “Come and see”

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, He said, “Here is an Israelite who can be trusted.”

“How can you know me?” Nathanael asked



Jesus said, “I saw you when you were under the fig tree, before Phillip told you about Me.” Jesus revealed information that could only be known by Nathanael himself. This divine awareness about Nathaniel’s heart brought about immediate faith in Christ.

Then Nathanael said, “Teacher, You are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel.” Jesus praised the simplicity of Nathanael’s faith. This new disciple believed merely because Jesus, without being present saw him.

Jesus’ disciples were all ordinary men, set apart by God as followers of Christ who experienced life and ministry alongside Jesus on earth. Today we have been introduced to Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John as well as Philip and Nathanael. Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17, and Luke 5:27-32 teach about Matthew the tax collector’s call to follow Jesus. Thomas (John 11:16), James, Thaddaeus (John 14:22), Simon, and Judas (John 6:71) make up the remaining 12 disciples.

### Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

Matthew 10:1-15; Mark 6:6-13 and Luke 9:1-6

After some time of traveling with, and observing Jesus’ ministry, Jesus commissioned and instructed the Twelve sending them out with his message, power and authority. They were to take nothing with them. They were to cast out unclean spirits and heal diseases and afflictions. They were to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers and cast out demons. Jesus instructed them to minister to both the spiritual and the physical needs of the lost. They went out and preached that people should repent and proclaimed the kingdom of God. This was a time of apprenticeship where the men were prepared for their ultimate mission after Jesus’ ascension.

Re-tell the Bible Story: Have the students re-tell the story as best they can.

### Share the GOSPEL:

Jesus invites us to become His disciples. Like the original twelve, we can tell others about our great Savior.

Jesus the Son of God and true King of Israel, came to earth to show what God is like and to save people from their sins. He called disciples to follow Him. We are Jesus’ disciples when we trust in Him. We can invite everyone to come and see the good news about Jesus.



## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**ATTENTIVE** - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

**COMPASSIONATE** - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

**CREATOR** - God made everything. He is uncreated.

**DELIVERER** - God rescues and saves his children.

**ETERNAL** - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

**FAITHFUL** - God always keeps his promises.

**GENEROUS** - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

**GLORIOUS** - God displays His greatness and worth.

**GOOD** - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

**HOLY** - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

**IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING** - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

**INCOMPREHENSIBLE** - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

**INFINITE** - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

**JEALOUS** - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

**JUST** - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

**LOVING** - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

**MERCIFUL** - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

**OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY** - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.



## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**OMNIPRESENT** - God is fully present everywhere.

**OMNISCIENT** - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

**PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING** - God is untiring and bears with His children.

**PROVIDER** - God meets the needs of his children.

**REFUGE** - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

**RIGHTEOUS** - God is always good and right.

**SELF-EXISTENT** - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

**SELF-SUFFICIENT** - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

**SOVEREIGN** - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

**TRANSCENDENT** - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

**TRUTHFUL** - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

**WISE** - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

**WORTHY** - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

**WRATHFUL** - God hates all unrighteousness.





## QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

**“Storying” Questions:** As you ask these questions, have your students find the answers in the actual verses of scripture instead of recalling them from your re-telling of the story. We always want to encourage all of our students to go directly to God’s Word over a commentary on or summary of scripture. Use the Bible Study Bookmark Questions as well as these questions to help students understand the text:

**What did Jesus invite the two disciples of John the Baptist to do in John 1:38-39?** *He invited them to come and see. After John announced Jesus as the Lamb of God, these two men were curious about who Jesus was. Jesus welcomed them and offered them a chance to get to know Him more as the men stayed with Him for the day.*

**Andrew was one of the two men who followed Jesus and stayed with Him. Who did Andrew bring with Him to Jesus?** *Andrew brought his brother Simon, who Jesus renamed Peter. Andrew was so excited and told his brother that they had found the Messiah.*

**Who were the other disciples that began to follow Jesus?** *When Jesus was in Galilee, He called Philip to follow Him. Philip brought Nathanael to Jesus. Even though Nathanael was not so convinced about following Jesus, what did he say after he met Jesus? Nathanael called Jesus the Son of God and King of Isreal.*

**In today’s story, how did Jesus show us what God is like?** *Jesus did not look for the most important or most qualified people. He called regular, ordinary men to follow Him. In Jesus we can also see God’s power, kindness, and His desire to welcome sinners.*



## QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

**How can we follow Jesus as His disciples today? *Trusting Jesus as our Savior is the first step in following Him. When we surrender our lives to Jesus, He gives us a changed heart with desires to obey and follow Him. Disciples of Jesus follow His teachings and desire to make more disciples.***

**What are some ways you can introduce others to Jesus like Andrew and Philip did?**

**What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?**

**What does the story teach me about myself?**

**Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?**

**Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?**

**How does this story help me live on mission?**



## PRAYER PROMPTS

Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus to live a perfect life for us. Thank You for giving us the power through Jesus to say no to sin. Help our lives be pleasing to You. Amen.

## IF TIME ALLOWS:

Play a game of Bible drill using the gospels.

## MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

We will take the month of January off from mission projects. Please make plans to attend the re-scheduled special missions emphasis training for all leadership on the afternoon of January 26h.

## REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Spend time reviewing memory verse with students.

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## Application Questions

### LOOK UPWARD

- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

### LOOK INWARD

- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

### LOOK AROUND

- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

the life of  
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## Application Questions

### LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

### LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?