

Get Ready!

The Calling

By: Sarah Buzzard

Text

Mark 3:13-19

Key Quest Verse

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men” (Mark 1:17).

Bible Background

Most of Jesus’ ministry took place in Judea. In Galilee, however, He called His disciples, or students. Jesus had traveled many miles telling men that the Kingdom of God was going to be set up on the earth. He performed miracles, making the blind to see and the crippled to walk. Now Jesus was calling men to follow Him. He wanted men He could train to carry on His work after He was gone. He wanted men He could train to teach and to preach the gospel of the Kingdom.

Get Ready!



Lesson Quest

What I want my students to:

Know: Jesus has called all of us to be His followers.

Feel: Confident that they are accepted as a friend of Jesus.

Do: Actively makes decisions to follow Jesus and tell others about Him.

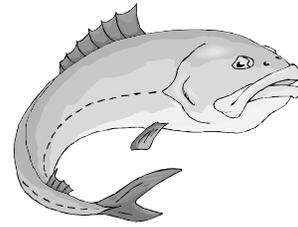
Leader's Devotion

Three things struck me about this text. First, how did Jesus know which 12 of His followers to pick? Luke's account tells us: the night before He called them, he prayed all night on the mountain. Here Jesus sets us an example of approaching decisions in our lives with prayer.

Secondly, the disciples weren't particularly qualified to be chosen; they were simple fishermen. But when Jesus picked them, He equipped them. He said He would *make* them fishers of men. He gave them a message to preach – the gospel of the Kingdom – and He gave them the power to heal diseases and the authority to cast out demons. Similarly, we may not be specially qualified to be Jesus' disciples, but Jesus has entrusted to us the same message of the Kingdom, which is a great honor as well as a responsibility.

Thirdly, in none of the accounts is there any hint of hesitation or resistance from the disciples when Jesus called them. In fact Mark says that when Jesus issued the call to become fishers of men, "immediately" Simon and Andrew abandoned their nets and followed Him – no questions, no whining, no hesitation. Although I often fall short of it, I like their example. It reminds me of what Jesus said to the young man who wanted to first bury his father: "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the Kingdom of God" (Luke 9:60).

Get Set!

**Option A**

Materials: Fishing equipment (poles, hooks, lures, bait, nets, etc.) or pictures of fishing equipment or people fishing

Procedure: Display the fishing equipment or pictures to spark a discussion about fishing

How many of you have ever been fishing? Do you have relatives or friends who like to go fishing? Do you have an experience or story to share? What did you like most about fishing? The least?

Several of Jesus' disciples were fishermen. When Jesus called them, He said He would make them "fishers of men." Let's see what He meant by that.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: The "Help Wanted" section of a newspaper, chalkboard or marker board

Procedure: Read a couple of the Help Wanted ads. **Most of these ads list the education necessary for the job, experience required, qualities the employer is looking for, and a job description.** Write these four categories on the board at the top of four columns. **Imagine you wanted to hire disciples. What information would you include in the "Help Wanted" ad in these four categories?** Jot down the students' ideas on the board.

We know that Jesus didn't place an ad in the newspaper when He was looking for His 12 disciples. Let's see how He called and chose them.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

One night Jesus went alone to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night praying to God. The next day He took his disciples up the mountain. What is a disciple? (A student, a learner.) And Jesus chose 12 of them, who would be with Him and who He could send out to preach the message of the Kingdom, the good news that God’s Kingdom will be set up on the earth. He also gave these 12 the power to heal diseases and the authority to cast out demons. These 12 we call the *apostles*. An apostle is one who is sent out with a message. Now turn in your Bibles to Mark 3:16-19 and read the names of the 12 apostles. (Write the names on a chalkboard or marker board as students read them.)

1. **First, Simon, who Jesus called Simon Peter. Peter means “rock.” Why do you think Jesus gave him that name?** (Peter was the one who recognized that Jesus was the Messiah, the promised king. That belief is the “rock” foundation of the church. Also Peter turned out to be the leader of the disciples.)
2. **James, brother of John**
3. **John, brother of James. Jesus called them the “sons of thunder.” What do you think that nickname meant?** (Perhaps they were very energetic and enthusiastic men.)
4. **Andrew (Simon Peter’s brother)**
5. **Philip**
6. **Bartholomew**
7. **Matthew (who was a tax collector)**
8. **Thomas**
9. **James**
10. **Thaddeus**
11. **Simon the Zealot**
12. **Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him**

Why do you think He prayed on the mountain all night before choosing the apostles? (He probably prayed for wisdom, so He would know which men to pick.) **Why do you think He chose 12? What else has the number 12 in the Bible?** (The 12 sons of Jacob, who became the 12 tribes of Israel. In a sense Jesus was starting a “new Israel.”)

Go!

Who Am I?**GAME**

Materials: Twelve index cards or pieces of paper with the name of one disciple written on each, tape

Quest Connection

Jesus chose each disciple for a reason. Let's see if you remember them.

Procedure: Tape one index card to the back of each student without letting them see the name written on it. The students then walk around the room and let the others look at the name on their back and ask one yes/no question of each person until they guess the name. They can only ask one question of each person. Examples of questions: Does my name start with 'J'? Was my brother also one of Jesus' disciples? Did Jesus give me a nickname?

Close

Remember that Jesus also chose you and me to H disciples, or students.

Go!**Disciple Report****CREATIVE WRITING**

Materials: Worksheet “Disciple Report,” pens

Quest Connection

Procedure: Complete the worksheet either as a class or by assigning one disciple to each student or pair of students. Then have them report back to the class.

Close

Do you feel that you know the disciples better now? Do you understand more why Jesus chose them? To be a disciple means that you follow the teachings of one you want to be like. It means that you compare yourself to the teacher, Jesus, and not the other disciples. The goal then means not to be like someone else, it is to be like Jesus.

**What kind of people did Jesus love? Let’s look up in our Bibles Matthew 5:43-47
How did He show His love for them?**

What does it take to show that kind of love?

Go!**Disciple Countdown****MUSIC**

Materials: Lyrics to the song written on poster board or chalkboard from Teacher Resource “Disciple Countdown”

**Quest Connection**

These two memorization devices will help you memorize the names of the 12 disciples.

Procedure: Here’s an easy way to memorize the names of the twelve disciples! I can teach you in just 5 minutes and it will be with you for a lifetime. First, you must learn this. There are two S's, two T's, four J's and map B. Keep repeating that until you can say it. Two S's, two T's, four J's and map B. Two S's, two T's, four J's and map B, etc....

What this means is there are two names that **start with the letter S**, two names that **start with the letter T**, four names that **start with J**, and map **B** means **Matthew, Andrew, Philip, and Bartholomew**.

The 2 S's are Simon Peter, Simon

The 2 T's are Thomas, Thaddeus

The 4 J's are James, John, James, Judas

Map B is Matthew, Andrew, Philip, and Bartholomew

Now, repeat it this way several times. Two S's, Simon Peter, Simon; two T's, Thomas, Thaddeus; four J's, James, John, James, Judas, and map B, Matthew, Andrew, Philip, and Bartholomew. Now do it again. Repeat several times.

Close

Try singing this song or repeating the phrase to help you remember the 12 disciples. If you can say them all next week you will be rewarded a prize!

Go!**Gone Fishin'****FOOD**

Materials: Snacks related to fish and fishing, for example: Goldfish crackers, gummy worms, blue jello “water,” Swiss cheese “nets,” pretzel “hooks,” plates or napkins

Quest Connection

Jesus said that He would make His disciples fishers of men. What do fish and fishing have to do with the gospel?

Procedure: Hand out the snacks and talk about what each represents. While students eat, discuss: **How is fishing like fishing for people?** (We have to “hook” people with the “bait” – the gospel of the Kingdom. Not everyone will be “caught.” It takes patience.) **What qualities might fishermen have that would make them good at being fishers of men?** (Patience, hard work, determination)

Close

Jesus wants all of us to be fishers of men. Think about how you can “catch” people with the “bait” of the gospel of the Kingdom.

Go!**Help Wanted****CREATIVE WRITING**

Materials: Worksheet “The Galilee Times,” pens

Quest Connection

Would you follow Jesus if he said he would make you a fisher of men? If Jesus put a Help Wanted ad in the paper would you apply? Let’s look at an imaginary Help Wanted ad.

Procedure: Fill in the worksheet by looking up the verses indicated.

Close

Remember that Jesus has called all of us to be fishers of men, and He has given us the same message – the gospel about the Kingdom. Disciple– what does that mean we need to do:

1. Change– In Matthew 4:20,21 what does it say the disciples did? They had to leave their professions

2. Serve- We must serve man and God. Look up Matthew 13:1-17

3. Sacrifice- Look up the following verses to see what they say about sacrifice:

Luke 14:26-

Luke 14:27

John 13:35

John 15:8

Go!**Gone Fishing****GUEST QUEST**

Materials: Ask someone from your congregation who enjoys fishing to come and talk to your class. Ask them to bring in a rod, reel and tackle box.

Quest Connection

In the Bible, fishing is mentioned so many times. Does anyone remember which disciples were fishermen? Does anyone enjoy fishing? How about eating fish? I have invited a special guest to talk to us about fishing.

Procedure: Your guest will give an overview of the sport of fishing to the class. Give the guest the questions ahead of time so that they can be prepared.

1. What is in your tackle box and what is its purpose?
2. Do you wear any special clothing when you fish?
3. What kind of fish do you want to catch?
4. Where do you like to go fishing?
5. Is it better to fish from a boat or on the shore?
6. What do you do with the fish you catch?
7. Do you think that they fished any different during Bible times?

**Close**

Fishing during the times of the disciples was just not a hobby or sport, but a way of life. People had to fish in order to have food to eat. How can actual fishing really be compared to leading people to Christ?

Ask the special guest to lead the class in prayer.

Go!**Fishing Scene****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: Worksheet with lake background, colored pencils, markers

Quest Connection

I want you to listen to the amazing story of how Jesus called Simon Peter, James and John from being fishermen to becoming fishers of men.

Procedure: Hand out the worksheet and ask students to draw what they hear as you read Luke 4:43 through 5:11. Tell them that you'll read it twice so they can get a clear mental picture of what to draw. Emphasize that artistic talent doesn't matter in this activity; they should just draw what they imagine the scene looked like, even if they draw stick people.

Close

Did you notice that Peter, James and John left what was probably the biggest catch of fish of their lives to become fishers of men? They didn't hesitate or complain. We should try to follow their example.



THE GALILEE TIMES

HELP WANTED: JESUS NEEDS DISCIPLES.
JOB DESCRIPTION:

1. (MARK 3:14) _____

2. (MARK 3:15) _____

THE MESSAGE YOU WILL BE PREACHING IS:
(MARK 1:15) “ _____

_____”

YOUR BOSS WILL MAKE YOU INTO:

(MARK 1:17) _____

**MUST BE WILLING TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING FOR
YOUR BOSS. PREVIOUS FISHING EXPERIENCE HELPFUL
BUT NOT NECESSARY.
APPLY ON THE MOUNTAIN., EVEN TAX COLLECTORS
ACCEPTED!**

Find and circle the names of the twelve disciples

A V J W S V T H O M A S E
V J A M E S J J J Z A X R
J U G X T B X A O G O L G
J U Z P N A D M H D N F B
F O D O A R K E N P A V W
L D M A Y T T S A H N U Q
D I T P S H H T O I D M E
S X M E C O A H Q L R A M
P A Z T V L D E C I E T I
R Y P E T O D L H P W T G
E H W R W M E E D Y V H T
I Y A C J E U S D D O E N
T D F J X W S S Y S L W L

Andrew

Bartholomew

James

James the less

John

Judas

Matthew

Peter

Philip

Simon

Thaddeus

Thomas

Disciple Report

Peter
Matthew 16:15-18

What Jesus asked:

What Peter answered:

What Jesus said to him:

What you learn about Peter:

Matthew (Levi)
Luke 5:27-29

What Jesus said to him:

What Matthew did:

What Matthew did next:

What you learn about Matthew:

James and John
Mark 10:35-37, 40-41

What they asked of Jesus:

What Jesus answered:

How the other 10 disciples felt:

What you learn about James and John:

Thomas
John 20:24-28

What Thomas said to the other disciples:

What Jesus said to Thomas:

What Thomas answered:

What you learn about Thomas:

Philip
John 1:43, 45

What Jesus said to him:

What he said to Nathanael (Bartholomew):

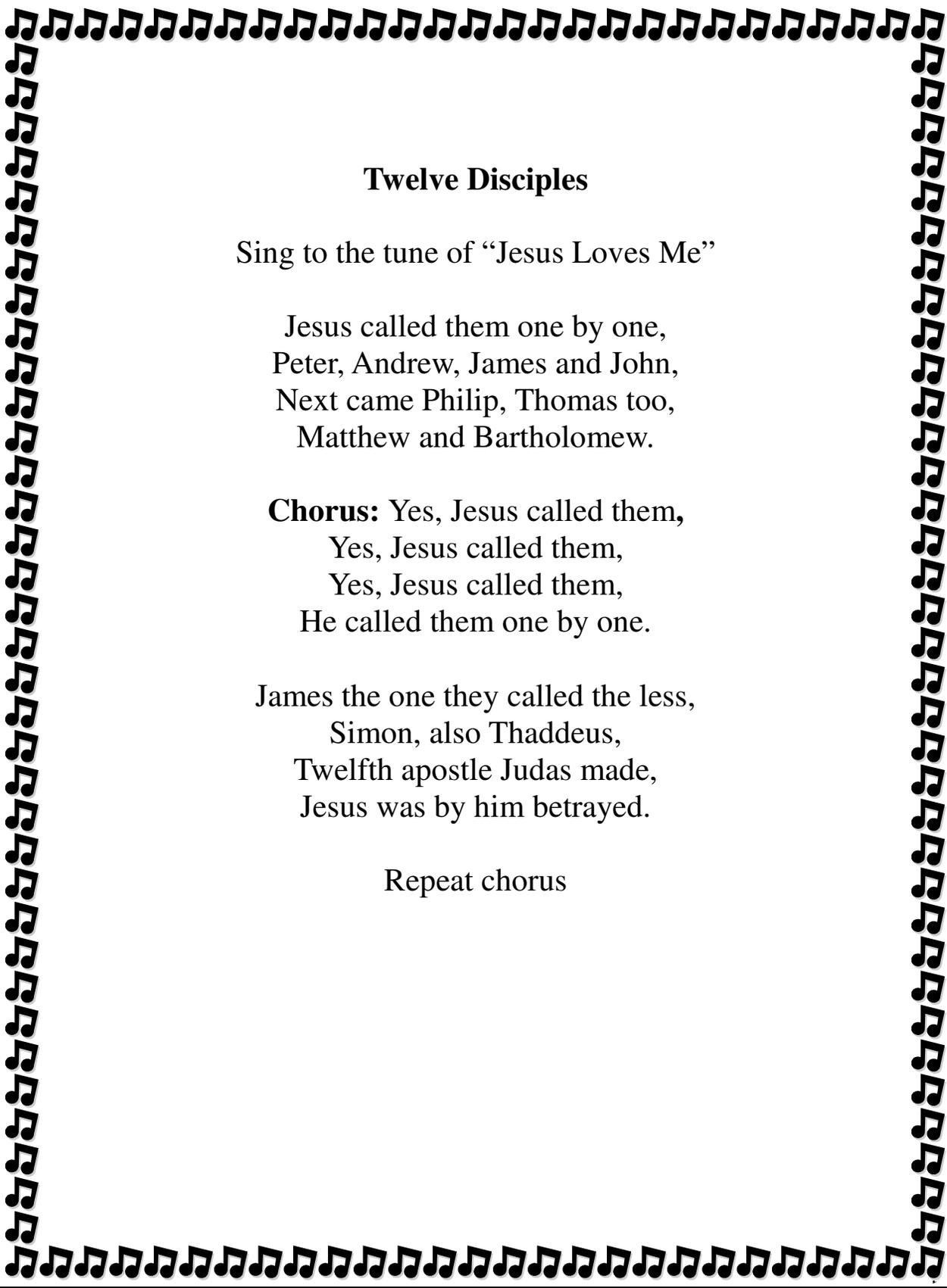
What you learn about Philip:

Andrew
Mark 1:16-18

What Jesus said:

What they did *immediately*:

What you learn about Andrew:

A decorative border of musical notes surrounds the text. The border consists of a top row of notes, a bottom row of notes, and two vertical columns of notes on the left and right sides, all connected at the corners.

Twelve Disciples

Sing to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me”

Jesus called them one by one,
Peter, Andrew, James and John,
Next came Philip, Thomas too,
Matthew and Bartholomew.

Chorus: Yes, Jesus called them,
Yes, Jesus called them,
Yes, Jesus called them,
He called them one by one.

James the one they called the less,
Simon, also Thaddeus,
Twelfth apostle Judas made,
Jesus was by him betrayed.

Repeat chorus

Worksheet

