GOD WITH US

Follow Me

November 8th, 2026

We see Jesus walking along the Sea of Galilee. Jesus sees two brothers. Simon (Called Peter) and Andrew. Both Matthew and Mark give the detail that these men were fishermen. They earned money by going out onto the water and catching fish. It was hard work. Jesus sees these two brothers casting their nets. They are in the middle of doing their job, in the middle of living their life. Jesus says, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

If you have ever gone fishing before, do you go out on the dock or in the boat and call a fish, and the fish jumps into the boat? No! We have to prepare to catch the fish before the line gets in the water. We have to put on a hook, a weight, and some bait. Then we cast the line out. When you cast the line out, do you immediately get a fish to bite? Most of the time, the answer is no. We have to be patient. We keep the line in the water, and we keep moving the bait, hoping a fish will bite. When the fish bites, does it immediately end up in the boat? Nope. We have to reel the fish in. There’s a lot that goes into fishing.
Jesus tells these brothers I will make you fishers of men. You will have the good news, but I will teach you how to prepare the line, how to cast, how to pull the line to help men come to know me. V20 How quickly did Andrew and Peter respond to Jesus' statement? The Bible says “immediately” they left their nets and followed Him. They didn’t ask Jesus if they could finish pulling in the net; they dropped the net and followed. They walked away from everything they had purchased or made; they gave up the job that earned them and their families money. They followed Jesus.

The next two people Jesus calls are James and John, the sons of a man named Zebedee. These men were in the boat with their father, fixing their net. They were fishermen as well. Jesus calls to them, and just like Peter and Andrew, they immediately left, but what does the bible say they left? They left the boat (their job) and their father (their family) to follow Jesus. Jesus called other people as well. Jesus calls to us just like He called Peter, Andrew, John, James, and all the other disciples.
“Follow Me.” He asks us to walk away from the life of sin that we are living. For some people, that is a hard thing to do. Many people look at their jobs, their money, the life they are comfortable with, and choose to say no.
Gospel connection
Jesus paid for us to have a new life. He offers us forgiveness and a new life through His blood. He calls to us: follow me. Be forgiven and live a new life. If you haven't accepted Jesus as your savior, you are missing out on a life filled with amazing things the world could never give you.
If you have accepted Jesus, He calls you to follow Him in all things. When things are hard, trust that God will provide. When temptations come, choose to follow and obey what Jesus tells us to do.

LG

rkids elementary

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Small Group Questions

Lower Elementary

1. Who did Jesus see while walking on the shore?
2. What were Andrew and Peter doing?
3. What did Jesus say to them, and how did they respond?
4. Who was with James and John when Jesus called them?
5. What did James and John do?
6. What would you do if Jesus called you to follow Him?

Upper Elementary.

1. Where was Jesus walking?
2. What two men did He see first? What were they doing?
3. What did Jesus say to them? Why is it important?
4. Who were the second two men Jesus met? Who was with them?
5. What did Jesus ask all of the men to do?
6. What did it mean to follow Jesus for the men
7. How did they respond?
8. What does it mean for us to follow Jesus?
9. What would you do if you were in this situation?
10. How do you do that today?

Activity 1: Coloring Page/ Activity

Activity 2: They left their nets and followed.
For this activity, have students write three things they really like/ love (favorite things) on different pieces of paper. The men Jesus called to follow Him. Immediately left their nets, their family, and the life they knew. To follow Jesus. Ask students to pick one piece of paper. And ask if they would turn it in to follow Jesus.

The Heart of the activity: Following Jesus will require us to give up things that we might hold in high value. God should be at the top of our list. As adults, there are plenty of things the Lord asks us to give up to place Him in His proper place. The diciples left everything because they knew that Jesus was better than anything. Do we live/ act like God is better than anything that the world can offer?

Sword Drills:
Deuteronomy 13:4, Matthew 4:19, 1 Samuel 12:24, Matthew 16:24, Psalm 25:4–5, John 8:12, Proverbs 3:5–6, 1 Peter 2:21

SG

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DIGGING DEEPER

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WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER.

1. Luke 9:23: If we wish to follow Jesus, what 2 things do we have to do?
2. Luke 9:23 What does it mean to deny ourselves and take up his cross daily?
3. Matthew 4:17: From that time Jesus began to preach and say what?
4. Matthew 4:18: What did Jesus say to these two men?
6. How was Jesus going to make these guys fishers of men?
7. Psalm 25:5: What did this Psalmist ask his God and Lord?
8. Matthew 4:20: What did these 2 men do right away or immediately?
9. If Jesus called, would you act right away?
10. Matthew 4:21: Who were the next 2 men Jesus called? What were they doing?
11. Matthew 4:22: What did these 2 men do right away or immediately?
12. Luke 18:18-23: Jesus asked this young man to follow Him, but what did he do?
13. John 8:12: Jesus promises that those who follow Him will have what?

MEMORY VERSE: **Luke 9:23** And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.