

## Response Questions

1. What did Jesus mean that the “kingdom of heaven is at hand?” (Matt. 4:17b).
2. Why do you think Jesus chose fishermen to be his disciples instead of more educated alternatives? What can we learn from this about what God wants in a disciple? (Mark 1:16-20).
3. Jesus began his first major teaching - The Sermon on the Mount - with what is known as The Beatitudes. As you read through them (Matt. 5:2-12), how do you see each of the Beatitudes in Jesus?
  - Was Jesus poor in spirit?
  - Did Jesus mourn?
  - Was Jesus meek?
  - Did Jesus hunger and thirst after righteousness?
  - Was Jesus merciful?
  - Did Jesus have a clean heart?
  - Was Jesus making peace?
  - Was Jesus persecuted?
4. Storms are inevitable in our lives. They even reveal our foundation. After reading Matt. 7:24-27, answer the following questions:
  - Explain why storms reveal our foundation.
  - Have you ever thought: If I follow Jesus and do everything right, I won't go through any storms? Why or why not?
  - What storms have you walked through? Are you walking through one now?
  - What 'future storms' might you be afraid of? Why?
  - We begin building our foundation by understanding who God is. Why is this so important?
5. After reading John 15:1-8, note all the times “fruit” is mentioned. What “fruit” is being spoken of? How can we be bearers of “fruit that will last” (John 15:16)? What might bearing fruit look like for you? For your family?