

Bible Study - Following Jesus Through the Gospel of Mark - The Invitation

Text: Mark 1:16–20; 2:13–17

Life is shaped by invitations. Some invitations simply fill a place on our calendar, while others redirect the course of our lives. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus extends the greatest invitation anyone has ever received: 'Follow Me.' Those two words transformed ordinary fishermen into apostles, a despised tax collector into a Gospel writer, and fearful men into courageous leaders. More than two thousand years later, Jesus still extends that same invitation.

Read Together - Mark 1:16–20 Mark 2:13–17

1. Jesus Calls Ordinary People to Extraordinary Tasks

Read: Mark 1:16–20; 1 Corinthians 1:26–29

Jesus chose ordinary fishermen instead of religious elites. God delights in using ordinary people for extraordinary purposes. Following Jesus means becoming His apprentice and allowing Him to shape our lives.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Jesus choose ordinary fishermen?

2. Have you ever felt unqualified for what God was asking?

3. What gifts has God given you to use for His Kingdom?

2. Jesus Calls Us to Surrender

Read: Mark 1:18–20; Mark 8:34

The disciples immediately left their nets, boats, and security to follow Christ. Every believer has 'nets' that must be surrendered to fully follow Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. What 'nets' might Jesus ask people to leave today?

2. Why is surrender difficult?

3. Where is God asking you to trust Him more fully? _____

3. Jesus Calls Us into His Mission

Read: Mark 1:17; Mark 2:13–17

Jesus first calls us into a relationship, then transforms us, and finally sends us into His mission. We are saved not only from sin but for God's purposes.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to become a fisher of people?

2. Why does transformation follow the relationship?

3. Who has God placed in your life that needs Jesus?

Personal Reflection

Where is Jesus inviting you to follow Him more closely? What are you holding onto that He is asking you to surrender? How can you intentionally participate in His mission this week?

Three Responses

1. **Accept Christ's Invitation.** - Say yes to Jesus' call to follow Him wholeheartedly.
2. **Surrender Whatever Is Holding You Back.** - Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the 'nets' you need to release.
3. **Join Jesus in His Mission.** - Pray for one person and intentionally share Christ's love with them this week.