

THE MESSAGE OF JESUS

EPISODE 4: THE CALL TO FOLLOW

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Main Points

Here are the big ideas you want people to understand:

- As part of his larger work of announcing God's kingdom and calling people to repentance and forgiveness, Jesus calls individual men and women to become his followers
- When you respond to Jesus in little ways, he reveals himself in big ways
- When you become a follower of Jesus, he changes your identity from being a "sinful man" to a "fisher of men"

EXPLORING THE STORY

◀ Look Back

Before diving into this week's session, give the group a chance to share and catch up to see where each person is at. Start with the following:

1. One-up (or One-down)

Invite each person to share one thing that has happened over the past week that they are grateful for (or, they can share one thing that has been weighing on them)

2. Prayer

Have a time of prayer and thanksgiving based on what was shared

3. Review

Quickly summarize where we've been before moving into this week's story:

“ So far... we've seen that Jesus traveled around and spoke God's message to many people. He announced that God was bringing his kingdom to Earth and that we can all be citizens of it – God's very own people – if we repent and turn to him. He also taught that we need to make things right with God – to be forgiven of our wrongdoing. Finally, we saw that Jesus taught that we need to become forgivers – those who cancel the debts that others owe us.

▲ Look Up

Now that you've reviewed where we've been, shift to this week's episode.

4. Setting the Stage

“ As Jesus traveled and taught he announced that God's kingdom was arriving. He called on people to turn to God by repentance and to seek his forgiveness for their wrongdoing. In today's story we will see that he also called people to become his followers and to put him first before all things.

As we read the story, be thinking about this:

- How did Jesus call Simon Peter to become his follower?

5. Read **Luke 5.1-11** and then discuss:

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- What are some of the details you notice in this story?
 - What had Simon been doing prior to Jesus asking to use his boat? What might Simon have been thinking? (vs. 3, 5)
 - What was the next thing Jesus called Simon to do? How did Simon respond? (vs. 4-5)
 - When Simon saw the results of obeying Jesus, how did he react? (vs. 8-9)
 - Does this surprise you? Why do you think Simon would react in such a way?
 - What do you like about the story? What questions do you have?

► Look Ahead

Help people process the implications of this week's reading and how they should apply its truths to the way they think and live.

6. Implications and Applications

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- What does this story teach us about how Jesus calls people to follow him?
 - In what ways is Jesus calling you to be available to him?
 - In what ways is Jesus calling you to make a small step of obedience this week?
 - What do you need to do to respond?

7. Closing Prayer