

Do something different

Mark 1.14-20

In which, John's work is done, and Jesus' ministry begins in Galilee, a region where Jews and Gentiles lived. Jesus invites people to align their lives with the God whose rule is for all and whose time is now. He calls four fishermen to let go of other commitments to make this message their priority.

Now read **Mark 1.14-20** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

It is tempting to think that there must be a backstory here. Had the fishermen met Jesus before, and were just waiting for the nod to become his disciples? Had they been searching for the Messiah for some time? Mark sticks to the centre-point of the action: there came a moment when Jesus said, 'Follow me,' and they did.



What do you think about the idea that you are chosen by Jesus?



- View a film clip of sunset at the Sea of Galilee and imagine yourself there, on the shore: youtu.be/PJTvFMtWh98
- Now imagine that you are one of the fishermen called by Jesus. How do you feel? What thoughts do you have when he says, 'Follow me'? Does this show you something about yourself?
- In a household, you could act out the scene – freeze the action at various points and discuss, 'What is this person feeling now?'
- Alternatively, imagine the scene in a contemporary context – someone calls your name and you look over your shoulder...

Plant

You will need: some kitchen paper, a jam jar, and a seed that will germinate.

- Jesus described his own calling as being like a seed (see John 12.24).
- Make the kitchen paper damp and roll it into a tube. Place it inside the jam jar. Slide the seed between the paper and the glass. Put the jar somewhere warm and light and check it regularly to keep the paper damp. Watch for growth.
- The seed must split for the new life to start. Think about any endings you have experienced that have also been new beginnings.

DAILY PRAYER

I love you, Lord Jesus.
Grant that I may always follow you,
wherever the path of my life takes me. **Amen.**

- You might also find it helpful to reflect on the Methodist Covenant Prayer.

www.rootsontheweb.com/content/PDFs/346041/Methodist_Covenant_Prayer_study.pdf



Read the poem 'The Summer Day' by Mary Oliver: www.loc.gov/poetry/180/133.html Notice how she finds meaning and wonder by looking very closely at a grasshopper. Take a walk and find something small and marvellous to look at – perhaps a leaf, a seed head or an insect. Allow wonder to fill your thoughts. Pray about this marvel that God has made. Pray about yourself and what you are going to do with your one wild and precious life.

DISCOVER

- The disciples caught fish; Jesus calls them to catch people – same process, different focus! Find the process that is your gift, rather than always focussing on just one way to express it. Describe what you do with a verb rather than a title – e.g. 'bring joy to others' rather than 'screen writer' or 'comedian'.
- These questions may help you discern your core gift: When do you feel most alive? What would most people who know you describe as your key quality? Is there something that you have been doing with ease your whole life?

Learn more here:

www.coregift.org/gift-library/#video.

Children can discover their core gift too - here is a questionnaire for children: www.coregift.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/AltGiftQuestionsChildren.pdf

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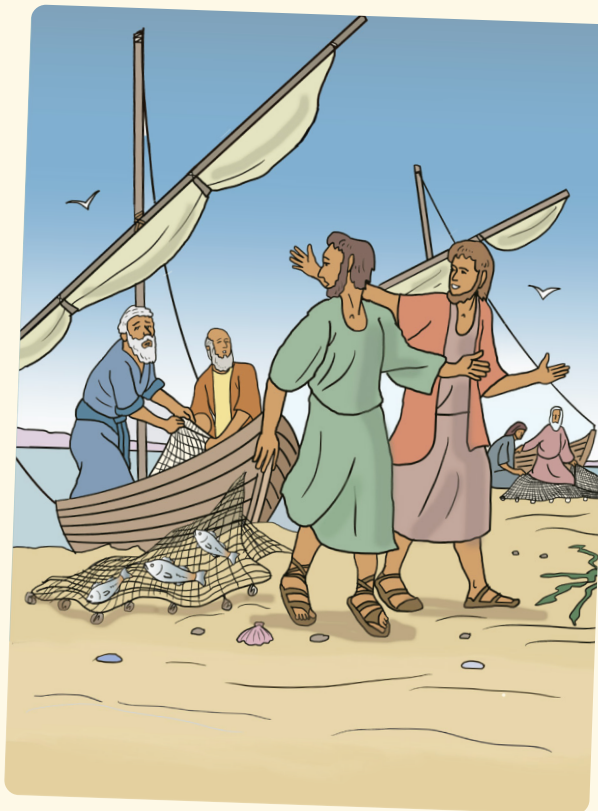
Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

John the Baptist was in prison, so now it was up to Jesus to tell people the good news of God. He came to Galilee, saying, 'The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news.'

As Jesus walked along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two fishermen. They were brothers, Simon and Andrew. He watched as they cast a net into the lake and waited. After a while, the net seemed to get heavy; it was full of fish, wriggling and jumping. The two men began to drag the net ashore. As they did so, they looked up and saw a man standing watching them. 'Who is that?' Andrew asked Simon, puzzled. Jesus drew nearer and looked straight at them. 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people,' he said. Immediately, they left their nets and followed Jesus.

As they walked along the shore together, Jesus saw two more fishermen in a boat, mending their nets. They were James and his brother John, working with their father, Zebedee. Immediately Jesus called to them, 'Follow me.' They left their father in the boat with the hired men, and just like Andrew and Simon, James and John followed Jesus.

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Did you know?

• John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin.

• Repent means saying sorry to God for what you have done; having a change of heart.

Mark 1.14-20 (NRSV)

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make

you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.