

# "Answering the Radical Call of Christ" (September 3)

(Title Tentative)

**Main Verses:** Mark 1:14-20

**Key Verse:** Mark 1:17

**Takeaway':** Being a disciple or student of Jesus means joyfully surrendering your life plans to his life-changing mission.

**Getting Started:** Have you ever gone fishing? If so, describe what happens.



**READ (or have older kids help read):** Mark 1:14-20

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- What happened before Jesus saw Simon & Andrew?
- What is the kingdom of God? How should we respond to it?
- What did Simon & Andrew (& James & John) do for a job?
- What did Jesus say to them, & how did they respond?

Elementary:

- How did Jesus respond to John being arrested according to verse 14?
- What does Jesus mean when he says the "time is fulfilled"? What is the kingdom of God? How should we respond to it?
- What did Jesus say to Simon & Andrew (& James & John)? Do you think they understood what he meant?
- How did they respond to Jesus?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses:

Toddler/PreK:

- Scripture was fulfilled in Jesus' life & ministry. This included John's arrest.
- The kingdom of God is "at hand" means that God's rule over people's hearts & lives is being established through Jesus. We respond by repenting and believing.
- Simon & Andrew, along with James & John, were fisherman. Jesus called them to follow him & become "fishers of men."
- They responded by immediately leaving their fishing & following Jesus.
- Becoming a disciple of Jesus means becoming a person who helps point others to Jesus.

Elementary:

- After John's arrest, Jesus began his public ministry.
- "The time is fulfilled" means that Jesus is the fulfillment of all the promises of God found in the O.T.
- The kingdom of God is God's rule over people's hearts & lives, established through Jesus's death & resurrection. We respond by repenting & believing & following Jesus.
- Jesus called Simon & Andrew (along with James & John) to follow him, telling them they would become "fishers of men".
- Their response was **immediate**—they dropped their nets & followed Jesus, surrendering their plans to his. This is how we should also respond to the call of Jesus on our lives.
- Becoming a disciple of Jesus means becoming a person who helps point others to Jesus.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

Toddler/PreK: Talk to God & thank him for sending Jesus to establish his rule over our hearts & lives. Ask God to help you to learn more about him every day, & ask him to help you to listen to him & obey him. Thank God for the people in your life who teach you about Jesus. Ask God to show you how you can point others to him, as well.

Elementary: Talk to God & thank him for sending Jesus to establish his rule over our hearts & lives. Thank God for the people in your life who have helped point you to Jesus. Thank him that through faith in Jesus we are able to repent, believe, & follow Jesus. Have you heard that call on your life? If so, you might want to pray in this way: **Admit** you are guilty of living a me-centered life instead of a God-centered one. **Believe** that Jesus is your only hope for forgiveness, freedom, & forever with God. With your whole heart and being, **commit** yourself to following Jesus' loving leadership. If you pray this, or have questions about what it means, talk to a trusted adult in your life about it.