



12

Jesus Calls Followers

Key Theme

- God provides salvation from sin through Jesus.

Key Passages

- John 1:35–37, 1:40–45; Matthew 4:21–22, 9:9–10

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain how Jesus called His disciples and what they did.
- Describe how the tax collector, Matthew, responded to Jesus.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will review the memory verse by putting the Memory Verse Cards in order. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a friend or to the class.



Activity 1: Jesus Calls Followers Class Notes

Students will complete the Jesus Calls Followers Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

As Jesus began His public ministry, He called disciples to follow Him. These disciples believed that Jesus was the Messiah. They ran to tell friends and family that they had found the Messiah. In their enthusiasm to learn from Jesus, they left their old lives behind and followed Him.



Activity 2: Ready, Aim, Follow! Game

In teams, students will answer questions from the lesson. If they answer correctly, the team will get a chance to toss beanbags into the baskets to earn points.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- ☐ Print and cut out one set of 10 Memory Verse Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Print on cardstock.
- ☐ Put cards into an envelope or small plastic bag for each student. Keep cards for Lessons 7–12.

- ☐ Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Memory Verse Cards in envelope or small plastic bag for each student



JESUS CALLS FOLLOWERS CLASS NOTES

- ☐ Print one Jesus Calls Followers Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- ☐ Jesus Calls Followers Class Notes for each student
- ☐ Jesus Calls Followers Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- ☐ Study the Prepare to Share section.
- ☐ Go Before the Throne.

- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets



READY, AIM, FOLLOW! GAME

- ☐ Print one Ready, Aim, Follow! Teacher Guide and Questions sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.
- ☐ Print and cut out the Ready, Aim, Follow! Basket Point Labels from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- ☐ Ready, Aim, Follow! Teacher Guide and Questions
- ☐ Ready, Aim, Follow! Basket Point Labels
- ☐ Two beanbags
- ☐ Three laundry baskets or boxes
- ☐ Masking tape



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- ☐ This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.
- ☐ Use one set of 10 Memory Verse Cards from the Come On In Activity above.
- ☐ Tape one card to the backs of 10 students.

- ☐ Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ One set of Memory Verse Cards
- ☐ Tape



Memory Verse

Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above along with this background.

In Lesson 11 we learned that Jesus began His public ministry when He was publicly baptized by John. He was then led out to the wilderness where He fasted from food for 40 days and was tempted by the devil. These events verify to us that Jesus was fully man and identified with man. Yet we know He remained fully righteous in His obedience to the Law so that His righteousness could be applied to all who would turn to Him in repentance and faith.

As Jesus continued His ministry, we find that He called certain men to be His disciples. The word *disciple* means a student, a pupil, a learner. The first disciples Jesus called were followers of John the Baptist. John the Baptist was a prophet. His coming was predicted by the prophet Isaiah who said there would be a voice of one crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord (Isaiah 40:3). The Jews had waited 400 years since the prophecies of Malachi for this voice. John was that voice, and he had been preaching to the people for months. John was highly revered by the people of Israel as a prophet. So what would their reaction be as he looked up at Jesus and said, “Behold the Lamb of God” (John 1:36)? John’s disciples heard the announcement, and they followed Jesus—just like that. They left their mentor, John the Baptist, and followed Jesus. One of these disciples was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. The Bible says that Andrew went to find his brother to tell him they had found the Messiah, and they both went to Jesus (John 1:40–42).

Later, we read of these two brothers who apparently had returned to fishing after their initial meeting with Jesus. Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee and saw them. He said, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” The Bible says they immediately left their nets and followed Him (Matthew 4:18–20).

Jesus also called to Philip, “Follow Me” (John 1:43). What did Philip do? He went and found Nathanael and told him they had found the one whom Moses and the prophets had written of—Jesus of Nazareth (John 1:45). Nathanael and Philip went after Jesus.

As Jesus went on He saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They, too, were fishermen. The Bible tells us they were mending their nets when Jesus called to them. They immediately left the boat and their father and followed Jesus (Matthew 4:22).

Jesus did not call His disciples from among the religious elite. In fact, Matthew had been a tax collector. Tax collectors were among the most despised people in Jewish society. This was because they collected taxes for Rome, keeping much of the people’s money for themselves. They were often considered thieves and traitors. So what did Jesus do? He saw this man Matthew—the tax collector—and He said to him, “Follow Me.” And Matthew arose and followed Him (Matthew 9:9).

We learn that Matthew invited Jesus to his home for dinner. As Jesus sat there, many tax collectors and sinners came to sit with Jesus and His disciples (Mark 2:15). Matthew had apparently invited others who did not know Jesus to come and meet Him.

That is how the kingdom advances. People meet the Savior, and their hearts are moved to call on friends and family to come and meet Him as well. So Andrew found his brother Simon Peter, and they both went after Jesus. Philip encountered the Lord and ran to tell Nathanael. And upon meeting the Savior, Matthew the tax collector was moved to host a party and invite his sinful friends to meet the sinless one who came to seek and to save the lost.

These men called by Jesus were not spectacular in any way. They were simple men and had no influence with important people. They often faltered in their faith, struggling and doubting God. Yet God used them to influence the world for all eternity with the truth that they witnessed in Jesus Christ. We can learn from this. The Bible tells us that God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise; He has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things that are mighty (1 Corinthians 1:27–28). We are weak and foolish. We are called as believers to follow the examples of these early disciples. We are called to spend our lives declaring the truth of Christ to others.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

If you read the accounts of the calling of the disciples in Matthew 4, Mark 1, Luke 4, and John 1, you might get a bit confused about how and when Jesus called the disciples to follow Him. Some have even used the differences in these accounts to say that the Bible cannot be trusted. But if we slow down and carefully organize our thoughts and compare each of the passages, the apparent contradictions disappear. But

that takes some effort—effort far too few people are willing to exert.

Try taking a poll at church: How did Jesus call the first disciples? What do you expect the most common answer to be? For most people, the scene of Jesus calling the fishermen to drop their nets and become fishers of men probably comes to mind. But this idea, probably picked up from a sermon or some type of audio or video depiction, is a false view. Now, is this type of misconception going to lead anyone into major error? No. But it is this type of small error that can lead to misunderstandings that cause doubt about the truthfulness of Scripture.

Let's look at each of the Gospels and try to determine the order of the events of the baptism of Jesus, the temptation in the wilderness, and the calling of the first disciples. Look for additional notes in your Bible that will help you connect the accounts. These might be in the form of footnotes, margin notes, or headings above passages that connect the various accounts. Remember, the Gospels give different perspectives on what Jesus did, but they are all true. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all give the same basic timeline. This is why we call them the synoptics ("same view"). Take a few minutes to consider how the order of events in the synoptic Gospels compares to those in John.

Synoptics: John the Baptist preached repentance (Matthew 3:1–12; Mark 1:4–8; Luke 3:1–20); Jesus was baptized by John (Matthew 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22); Jesus was led to the wilderness to be tempted (Matthew 4:1–11; Mark 1:12–13; Luke 4:1–13); Jesus traveled to Galilee and preached repentance (Matthew 4:12–17; Mark 1:14–15; Luke 4:14–30); Jesus called Simon, Andrew, James, and John (Matthew 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20; Luke 5:1–11).

John: John the Baptist preached and baptized (1:19–28); Jesus was baptized (1:29–34); Andrew, Simon, and a third disciple followed Jesus (1:35–42); Philip and Nathanael followed Jesus (1:43–51); Jesus and the disciples traveled to Cana, and the water was turned to wine (2:1–10); Jesus and the disciples traveled to Capernaum (2:11–12); Jesus and the disciples traveled to Jerusalem, and Jesus cleared the Temple (2:13–25); Jesus talked with Nicodemus (3:1–21); Jesus baptized in Judea while John the Baptist was still alive (3:22–36); Jesus and the disciples traveled through Samaria, witnessing to many (4:1–42); Jesus traveled to Galilee and healed many people (4:43ff).

John gives us a lot more detail and shows that there are a lot of events that happened between the time the first five disciples began following Jesus, right after the temptation, and the setting aside of the nets to become fishers of men. And there is a big clue as to the timing of events in Matthew. Many of the events described by John must have happened between Matthew 4:11 and 4:12. Specifically, we know that John had not been imprisoned in John 3:23, so the first five disciples had been following Jesus for quite some time before the calling from the seashore. There is a reasonable explanation for the apparent conflict if we take the time to carefully and prayerfully study the text.

Sadly, even when we can explain these ideas to skeptics, they still refuse to accept the spiritual truths that are rooted in these historical events. John the Baptist called people to repent and trust in "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). But this is foolishness to those who do not have the Spirit of God. The message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. They rely on their own fallible reasoning rather than submitting to God's revelation. They claim to be wise and understand the truth apart from God, but they are really foolish (1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16). May we boldly proclaim the "foolish" message of the Cross and the Resurrection, trusting that God will use our preaching to open the eyes of those who hear so that they, too, may know that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ (Colossians 2:1–3).



BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear Jesus, I love your Word! Thank you for including these portraits of your disciples for us. The joy with which they came to you and the quick desire they demonstrated to tell their close friends and family about you is refreshing. I want to be more like that—filled with pure love and confidence in my Savior who brings salvation and hope to a lost and dying world that needs Him. Forgive me for holding back because I've been afraid or embarrassed. Move in the hearts of my students today to see your truth and begin lives of unashamed devotion to the Gospel of Christ!

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will review the memory verse by putting the Memory Verse Cards in order. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a friend or to the class.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Jesus Calls Followers Class Notes

MATERIALS

- ☐ Jesus Calls Followers Class Notes for each student
- ☐ Jesus Calls Followers Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. We'll complete them together during class.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will see how the disciples responded when Jesus called them to follow Him.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to the Lesson 11 Lesson Theme Poster. Last week we learned that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. John's baptism was one of repentance, confession of sin, and faith. John's baptism was for sinners.

- ? John was surprised when Jesus came to him to be baptized. Why would that surprise John? *Jesus never sinned.*
- ? That's right. Jesus was perfect. He never sinned. So, why was Jesus baptized? *So He could identify with sinful people and the sins they commit.*

➤ Use the New Testament History Poster included with your teacher kit as you teach the lesson. Emphasize that Jesus ministered only 3 years, and He lived only about 35 years. Yet His life changed the world forever and brought eternal life to all who believe.

Yes. It really is amazing! Jesus's baptism showed that even though Jesus was fully God, He was also fully man, and He understood, or identified with, sinful people—the ones He came to save.

? What else did we read about that showed that Jesus really can understand sinful man? It happened in the wilderness! *He was tempted.*

? Who tempted Him? *Satan, the devil.*

Satan came and tempted Jesus—three times. But Jesus knew what to do.

? What did Jesus use when the devil tried to tempt Him? *The Word of God.*

Yes. Jesus knew the Word of God—He believed it, trusted it, and used it; finally the devil left Him alone in the wilderness.

Jesus was baptized and tempted at the beginning of His public ministry. He was ready to get started. This is when Jesus started to call His first disciples. We are going to read about that today.

? First, what is a disciple? *Allow discussion.*

The disciples were people who followed Jesus. We can still use that word today for people who follow Jesus. Of course, today it means that we believe and obey what Jesus taught as we read about it in the Bible. The disciples we will read about today were alive during the same time as Jesus, and they did follow Him—they walked with Him, heard His teachings, and saw Him perform miracles!

But how did Jesus call these men who followed Him? Let's find out.

What I am about to read happened while Jesus was with John the Baptist. John the Baptist had followers himself, men who listened while he preached. But that was soon to change. John came to prepare the way for the Lord, and that is what he did. Listen while I read John 1:35–37. *Read John 1:35–37 with enthusiasm.*

John 1:35–37

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

? Who are the people mentioned in verse 35? *Re-read John 1:35. John and two of his disciples.*

That's right. John the Baptist and two of his disciples, or followers, were together when Jesus walked by them.

? What did John say as Jesus walked by? *Re-read John 1:36. "Behold, the Lamb of God."*

? John knew who Jesus was, didn't he? He was the Lamb of God! What did the two disciples do when they saw Jesus and heard John call to Him? *Re-read John 1:37. They followed Jesus.*

These two disciples went after Jesus. The Bible tells us a little more about these two disciples. Listen as I read John 1:40–42. *Read John 1:40–42.*

- ? Who first followed Jesus? *John 1:40. Andrew.*
- ? It was Andrew. Who was Andrew's brother? *John 1:40. Simon Peter.*
- ? That's right. Andrew was Simon Peter's brother. Simon Peter wasn't with Andrew when he first followed Jesus. What does the Bible say Andrew did? *Re-read John 1:41. Andrew went and found his brother, Simon Peter.*
- ? And who did Andrew tell Simon Peter they had found? *John 1:41. The Messiah.*
Andrew met Jesus. He knew who Jesus was—the promised Messiah—and he wanted his brother, Simon Peter, to meet Him as well!
- ? Let's take a look at the class notes. Will someone read #1 for us? What word will finish that sentence? You can use the Word Bank for help. *Assign a reader. Brother. Complete #1 now.*

Jesus was on a mission. His ministry had started, and He was calling men who would believe in Him, listen to Him, and follow Him. Listen as I read about more men Jesus called. *Read John 1:43–45 enthusiastically. Emphasize the answers to the questions below.*

- ? Where was Jesus headed in these verses? *John 1:43. To Galilee.*
- ? And who did Jesus find there? *John 1:43. Philip.*
- ? And what did Jesus say to Philip? *John 1:43. "Follow Me."*
- ? Let's go to #2 on your class notes. Will someone read that? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Follow.*
- ? After Philip met Jesus he went and found someone else. Who was that? *Re-read John 1:45. Nathanael.*
- ? What did Philip say to Nathanael? What had they found? *John 1:45. They had found the one Moses and the prophets had spoken of—Jesus of Nazareth.*

Yes! Philip told Nathanael about Jesus. Philip knew Jesus was the one who had been promised in the Old Testament. Jesus was the one they had read about from Moses and the prophets. Jesus, the promised Messiah, had come.

- ? Look at #3 on your class notes. Will someone read that? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Jesus.*

And so, Nathanael went with Philip to meet Jesus. Jesus was gathering His disciples.

Now let's look at the Gospel of Matthew. This tells about a couple more disciples who were happy to follow Jesus. Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee. Listen carefully! *Read Matthew 4:21–22 with enthusiasm!*

➤ Read the completed answers on the class notes together as you go through the lesson.

- ? Who else did Jesus see? There are three people mentioned. *Re-read Matthew 4:21. James, John, his brother, and Zebedee, their father.*
- ? What did the two brothers, James and John, do when Jesus called them? *Re-read Matthew 4:22. They left the boat and their father and followed Jesus.*
- ? Yes! Let's complete #4 on your class notes now. Who will read that sentence and give us the answer? *Assign a reader. Father.*

Discover the Truth

A disciple is someone who follows. Jesus called the disciples and said, "Come, follow me." Jesus wanted the disciples to stay with Him.

Andrew heard Jesus and ran to find his brother, Simon Peter. Both left their lives behind to follow Jesus.

Jesus called Philip. Philip ran to tell Nathanael, and they left their homes and followed Him.

And there were James and John. Jesus called to them, and they left their father in the boat and followed Jesus. They all knew He was the promised Messiah they had waited for so long. They knew Jesus brought hope. They were willing to change their lives to follow Him.



READ THE WORD

So these were some of the first disciples of Jesus Christ—Andrew, Simon Peter, Philip, Nathanael, James, and John. But Jesus called others. We are going to read about another man Jesus called. Jesus was passing through the city when He came across this man. Listen as I read from the Gospel of Matthew. *Read Matthew 9:9–10 emphasizing the answers to the questions.*

Matthew 9:9–10

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Who did Jesus see as He walked by? *Re-read Matthew 9:9. Matthew.*
- ? And where was Matthew when Jesus saw him? *Matthew 9:9. In the tax office.*

Matthew was in the tax office where he worked. He was a tax collector. The tax collectors were hated by most people in those days because they

were liars and cheaters. They collected money—taxes—from the people for the government and often took more money than they should. Then they kept the extra money for themselves.

? Jesus passed one of these tax collectors, Matthew, that day. What did Jesus say to him? *Re-read Matthew 9:9. Follow Me.*

? And what did Matthew do when he heard Jesus? *Matthew 9:9. He arose and followed Him.*

Just like that! Matthew followed Jesus when he was called. It doesn't appear that he even looked back. He knew who Jesus was. He was willing to give up all he had to follow Him. And Matthew's life would NEVER be the same!

In fact, he did the same thing some of the other disciples had done—he went and told others!

Listen as I read this verse again. *Re-read Matthew 9:10.*

The Bible tells us Jesus sat at the table in the house and many tax collectors and sinners came and joined Him. It sounds like Matthew wanted his friends to meet Jesus, too! So he planned a dinner and invited his tax collecting friends and other sinners to eat with Jesus!

Discover the Truth

I do believe Jesus changed Matthew's life forever that day! "Follow me," were probably the last words Matthew expected to hear from the Messiah! But Jesus calls all types of people to come after Him. Matthew was a hated tax collector, a liar, and a cheat! And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me."

When Matthew saw and heard Jesus, he got up from the tax collector's booth and followed Him. I doubt Matthew ever went back to work there again! And Matthew wanted his friends to meet Jesus. So he invited them to a dinner at his home with Jesus and Jesus's disciples.

? Let's finish up our class notes. Will someone read #5? How will you complete that sentence? *Assign a reader. Tax.*

? And how about #6? Who did Matthew tell when he met Jesus. What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Friends.*





Ready, Aim, Follow! Game

MATERIALS

- ☐ Ready, Aim, Follow! Teacher Guide and Questions
- ☐ Ready, Aim, Follow! Basket Point Labels
- ☐ Two beanbags
- ☐ Three laundry baskets or boxes
- ☐ Masking tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is, the higher the score. Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. The teams will take turns answering questions from the lesson. When someone answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss the beanbags into the baskets. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. If the team misses the question another team may try. If no one gets the answer, give the answer and repeat the question later in the game. Repeat questions, or add others according to your class and your lesson.

Were you paying attention? We are going to play a game. I'm going to tape down a tossing line here and line up these baskets. Each basket is worth different points—5, 10, and 25. Each team will get a turn to answer

a question. If you answer correctly, you will get to toss beanbags into the baskets. We will keep track of your points on the board.

Play the game.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

When we play games like this, it is exciting to get a high score. You want to win! Right?

But winning isn't everything. It is FAR from everything. In today's lesson, Jesus called His disciples, and they followed Him—immediately. They left all they knew to go after Jesus. Many of them were excited and wanted to share the news about Jesus with their friends and family.

As you get to know Jesus, and come to understand and believe the gospel and the hope that He offers for all eternity, I pray you will get more and more excited—excited about the truth of God's Word; excited about Jesus; excited to tell your friends; excited to follow Him, just like the disciples we read about today!





Memory Verse Review Game (Optional)

Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class using this activity.

MATERIALS

- ☐ One set of Memory Verse Cards from Come On In Activity
- ☐ Masking tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Allow students to look at the Memory Verse Poster and say the verse together as a class a couple of times. Remove or cover the poster before the game begins. Tape the Memory Verse Cards onto 10 students' backs. Students will work together to put themselves in order according to the memory verse. Once they think they are standing in order, check the verse by reading the words out loud according to how they are standing.

If you have fewer than 10 students, tape more than one card in the proper order, on some students. If you have more than 10 students, assign the students without the cards to put the students with the cards into the proper order. Repeat if time allows.

We're going to practice our memory verse. Let's say the verse together a couple times.

Cover the poster before starting the game.

Tape the 10 cards onto the students' backs. Now I am going to tape these 10 Memory Verse Cards to 10 backs! Once I have done that, I want you to work together to get into the right order.

We'll check the verse when you are finished. You have to work together and help each other get in order. *Most groups may need a time limit to encourage them to move at a quick pace. If so, let them know the limit and use a timer to count down the time. Once the students think they are in the right order, check them by reading the words out loud.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Our verse reminds us that even though Jesus was fully God, He humbled Himself, came to earth, and obeyed even to death. Jesus was born in a humble and simple way, knowing that He would die on the Cross one day to save sinners.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Refer to the Lesson 12 Lesson Theme Poster. After Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, He began to call disciples. When Jesus said, "Follow Me," men dropped what they were doing and left their old lives behind.

Jesus's first disciples were so excited to meet Jesus that they went out and told others about Him. Andrew ran to tell his brother, Simon Peter, that he had found the Messiah. Philip ran to tell Nathanael. Jesus's ministry was growing!

Jesus called different men to follow Him. Andrew and his brother, Simon Peter, were simple fishermen. James and John were fishermen, too—from

a family of fishermen. Philip and Nathanael were Jews who were waiting for the Promised Messiah. They all followed Jesus!

And there was Matthew, the tax collector. Remember, tax collectors were hated by the Jews because they lied and stole the people's money. But Jesus chose Matthew to follow Him. And, like the others, Matthew left everything behind and did not look back!

They were pretty ordinary men. There wasn't a powerful leader, a scholar, or a celebrity among them. They were all Jewish. They believed Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah who had come to save sinners. And they all wanted to follow Jesus. And because they were willing to follow Him, their lives would be changed forever!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

The disciples met Jesus, wanted to follow Him, and told their friends and family about Him. All of us who trust and believe in Jesus have been called by Jesus. And we are also called to tell others about Him.

But, some people are embarrassed or afraid to tell their friends about Jesus because they don't want to be made fun of by others. God's Word tells us something about that. This is from Romans 1:16. *Read Romans 1:16.*

We shouldn't be ashamed of the gospel of Christ—the good news about Jesus. Because the gospel message is the only thing that can save people from the punishment of sin and death. We can't let the fear of what other people think stop us from spreading the good news about Jesus.

Some people might make fun of you because of your faith. But don't let that get you down, because others will listen to what you have to say, and they will want to hear more about Jesus. All we can do is be faithful to tell others about Jesus—about His life, His death, and His Resurrection. Tell them that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and no one can get to the Father except through Him. The gospel leads to eternal life. It is worth telling others about.



Romans 1:16

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Praise God for loving us so much that He sent Jesus to give us life and hope.
- Thank God for the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ that can change lives for all eternity.
- Ask God to move in the hearts of your students to see the truth, follow Jesus, and share the gospel with their friends and family.