

# THE WORD BECAME FLESH



## CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

### #10 - The Choosing of the Disciples Luke 5:1-11, 27-32, 6:12-16

**PICTURES** (Note: Inserted in brackets at the appropriate place in the lesson is the number of the picture to show the students.)

- 10-1 Jesus calling Peter as a disciple
- 10-2 Jesus calling Levi as a disciple

**REVIEW** (Before teaching lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) What did Jesus say about the prophecy of Isaiah when he read from it in the synagogue? Why weren't the people able to kill Jesus like they wanted to do? What did the demons say about Jesus? What did Jesus do for Simon's mother-in-law?
- **Big Question Review:** What did Isaiah say about the Christ? Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Luke 4:18-19  
The Spirit of God would be on the Christ and he would preach good news.

*<sup>18</sup>"(The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.) He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

## LESSON CONTENT

**Note:** The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus selected twelve men to be his disciples. What is a disciple? A disciple is a student or learner. Important Jewish religious leaders, the rabbis, had disciples who lived with and learned from him.

In living with a person, what do you both know about the person and learn from him? In living with a person, you can actually see what his life is like and whether he lives in the way he teaches. You learn what his character is like and how his beliefs play out in life. Nothing can be hidden from someone who lives with you.

What would Jesus' disciples have seen about him? They would have known that he was who he said he was, that he was a person of integrity.

What is integrity? Integrity means that you are the same on the inside as you portray yourself to be on the outside. If Jesus hadn't lived as the Son of God his disciples would have seen it. His life had to match his teaching for them to believe and follow him. In this lesson we will read about how Jesus chose some of his disciples.

### Luke 5:1-5 (picture 10-1)

*<sup>1</sup>One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, <sup>2</sup>he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.*

*<sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."*

*<sup>5</sup>Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."*

What did Jesus tell Simon to do? Put the boats back out to catch some fish.

How did Simon respond to Jesus? Simon was an experienced fisherman. He didn't want to go back out because he had already spent all night fishing. Then he said that because Jesus said to do it he would do it.

What did saying that show about Simon? He recognized Jesus' authority and submitted to it. He trusted Jesus.

What do we miss if we don't submit to Jesus' authority and trust him? We'll miss seeing him as he really is and miss seeing his work and what he came to do for us.

### Luke 5:6-11

*<sup>6</sup>When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup>So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.*

<sup>8</sup>When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup>For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup>and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." <sup>11</sup>So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

What did Simon see about himself? That he was a sinner. What caused him to see that? Jesus' power over nature. They caught fish when there hadn't been any there before. Only God has that kind of power.

What did Jesus call him to do? Catch men What did Jesus mean by that? His new work would be holding out the truth to men and leading them to God.

Who were the others that were with him? James and John, the sons of Zebedee

### **Luke 5:27-32 (picture 10-2)**

<sup>27</sup>After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, <sup>28</sup>and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

<sup>29</sup>Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. <sup>30</sup>But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and `sinners'?"

<sup>31</sup>Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>32</sup>I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Who was Levi? Levi was a tax collector. Tax collectors were despised people. Why were tax collectors despised people? They worked for the Roman government. Many of them cheated the people and collected more tax than was required. They made money off the people by collecting taxes.

What did the Pharisees and teachers of the law complain about in terms of Jesus and his disciples? They associated with undesirable people (sinners), not the "righteous" ones who followed God's law.

What did that show about the Pharisees? The Pharisees were self-righteous. They thought they were better than other people. They didn't think they were sinners in need of a savior.

What did Jesus tell the Pharisees? He was there to heal people who knew they were sick. He called sinners to repentance. People who think they do everything right don't see that they need a Savior.

Who does "sinners" include? Since everyone sins it includes even those who think they are righteous. The truth is everyone needs a savior, even those who think they are okay, that their good outweighs their bad. No one is righteous (good) apart from the work of Christ in them.

### **Luke 6:12-16**

<sup>12</sup>One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. <sup>13</sup>When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: <sup>14</sup>Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, <sup>15</sup>Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, <sup>16</sup>Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Before Jesus chose his twelve disciples what did he do? He spent the night in prayer. Why would he have done that? He needed to know the Father's will. God knows the heart and mind of each person, who they truly are, not who they pretend to be. Who were Jesus' disciples? Write them down as the students say them. (Matthew is another name for Levi.)

What is an apostle? Apostle means one who is sent out. It is a title used to designate the twelve original disciples Jesus chose.

What did being a disciple of Jesus require that the men do? Jesus' disciples left everything to follow Jesus. They were devoted to him. The twelve disciples spent all their time with Jesus, living with him, learning from him and doing whatever he asked of them.

There was a huge cost to being a disciple of Jesus but also great benefit. Jesus explained this to his followers.

### **Matthew 19:29**

*<sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.*

What did Jesus say would be the result of being his disciple? You get back more than you gave up and also gain eternal life.

## **LESSON WRAP-UP**

- **Overview Questions:** What did Peter say when Jesus told him to put out into deep water and let down his nets again? What happened as a result of Peter's obedience? What did this cause Peter to see and do? Who was Levi? What did he do when Jesus called him? Who were Jesus' twelve disciples?
- **Thought Questions:** What causes a person to want to be a disciple? What was unique about Peter's response to Jesus? Why would Peter have seen who Jesus was when others didn't? Why did Jesus only choose twelve men to be his disciples? What was the cost to the disciples of following Jesus? Why were they willing to do that? What causes devotion? How devoted are you to Jesus? What in your life shows that is true?
- **Prayer:** Pray that you would truly be one of Jesus' disciples; that he would live in you and you would learn from him. Pray that you would fully recognize who Jesus is, as Peter did, and devote yourself to him and live a life that reflects his presence.
- **The Big Question:** What is the result of being a disciple of Jesus? Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Matthew 19:29**  
A true disciple receives eternal reward.

*<sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life*

## ACTIVITIES

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included in the class booklet.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Have the children answer the two questions individually or as a group. What did you learn from this lesson? How can you put into practice what you learned?
- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the booklet and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse in the inside.
- ★ **The Big Question:** Have the students fill in the blanks for the way the memory verse answers the big question.  
A true disciple receives eternal reward.
- ★ **Coloring Page:** Color the lesson picture.
  - **Craft:** Fish picture  
As a reminder that Jesus called Peter to be his disciple and a fisher of men, decorate a picture of a fish.  
Materials: Cover stock paper, glue sticks, colored pencils, macaroni or tissue paper squares.  
Preparation: Run off craft 10 on cover stock paper. If using tissue paper for scales, cut it into squares.  
Instructions: Color the picture of the fish. Paste macaroni or tissue paper on the fish to make the scales.
  - **Game:** Find the Fish  
Instructions: Cut a picture of a fish in pieces and hide the pieces. The student who finds the most pieces wins and gets to hide the pieces again.

## JOURNAL

The daily journal is included in the booklet for the students to complete at home. It has six poetic readings and related Bible verses. It would be beneficial for the teacher to read through and be familiar with its content.