

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.

¹⁸"(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, ¹⁹to 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)

¹One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, ²he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³He 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.

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

⁵Simon 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

⁶When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷So 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.

⁸When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ⁹For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰and 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." ¹¹So 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)

²⁷After 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, ²⁸and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

²⁹Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. ³⁰But 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'?"

³¹Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³²I 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

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

²⁹ 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.

²⁹ 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 on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: Jesus chose twelve men out of all his followers to be apostles.

1. Peter, James and John were fishermen. Jesus called them to leave everything and follow him.
2. Levi (Matthew) was a tax collector who also left everything to follow Jesus.
3. Jesus spent all night in prayer before he chose the men who would be his disciples.

Why do I need to know this? The disciples saw something about Jesus that caused them to abandon what they were doing and devote themselves to following and learning from him.

- ★ **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.

- ★ **Activity Page:** Unscramble the names of the disciples.

Disciples: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot

- ★ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

1. Read the whole passage below to the students as they read along in their Bibles or on the discussion notes.
2. Read the passage verse by verse and have the students explain each verse.
3. Have the students extract one important truth from the passage. This can be done as an entire class or you can break into pairs or small groups.
4. Have the students answer the additional two questions: How can you apply this truth in your life? What will be the result of applying that truth?

Matthew 19:27-30 – Those who follow Jesus will receive a reward.

After the rich young man wouldn't give up what he had to follow Jesus, Peter asked Jesus an important question.

²⁷ Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"

²⁸ Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

Questions: What does it mean to leave everything and follow Jesus? What is the result of doing that? What does verse 30 mean?

JOURNAL

The daily journal inside the booklet has six readings that relate to a theme. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Journal Focus: What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?

Reading 1: Matthew 10:32-39 A disciple loves Jesus more than anyone else.

Who will Jesus acknowledge before the Father? What do verses 34-36 mean? To be Jesus' disciple why do we have to love him more than anyone else? How are we to lose our life? How will we gain our life?

Reading 2: John 13:1-17 A disciple is a servant to others.

What did Jesus do for his disciples? What was noteworthy about what he did? What was the example he set? What does that mean in terms of being his disciple?

Reading 3: John 13:31-35 A disciple loves others.

How did Jesus say people would know that we are his disciples? How did Jesus demonstrate his love for us? What does that mean in terms of being his disciple?

Reading 4: John 15:1-8 A disciple bears fruit.

What will show that we are Jesus' disciples? How do we bear fruit? What does it mean to remain in Jesus? Why is that the only way we can bear much fruit? What does that mean for you?

Reading 5: John 15:18-25 A disciple will be persecuted.

What can we expect to happen to us if we are Jesus' disciples? Why? What does that mean for you?

Reading 6: John 8:31-32 A disciple will know the truth and be set free.

What makes a person a disciple of Jesus? What do they then know? What does the truth do for a person? What does that mean?