

JESUS

5. FOLLOW ME: THE CALLING OF THE DISCIPLES STUDY AHEAD

Jesus called ordinary men and women to follow Him. Yes, some of these people became apostles (special messengers). But the majority were people like you and me who made the decision to become devoted, lifelong followers (disciples) of Jesus. It was these “regular” men and women who turned the world upside down for Jesus (Acts 17:6). *In this ‘Study Ahead’ you will be looking at how various people met and followed (or failed to follow) Jesus.*

1. John 1:35-51 and 2:1-11

- Some of Jesus’ disciples had first been disciples of John the Baptist

(Jn.1:35-37). Why do you think John’s life’s example and teaching caused them to be so willing to follow Jesus?

- When they asked Jesus where He was staying, what did He tell them? (Jn.1:38-39)

- Who did Andrew bring to Jesus? (Jn 1:40-42)

- Who did Philip bring to Jesus? (Jn 1:43-45)

- Nathanael doubted, yet how did Jesus welcome him? (Jn 1:45,46)

- Nathanael scorned a prophet from Nazareth, yet what compliment did Jesus return to his scorn? (Jn 1:46,47)

- Jesus’ first miracle at the wedding in Cana of Galilee caused His disciples to _____ . (Jn 2:11)

2. Matthew 4:18-22 and Luke 5:1-11

- This was a second meeting between Jesus and these men.

- What was Jesus’ deeper call to them? (Mt.4:19)

- Who did James and John leave behind? (Mt.4:22)

- How would that have impacted the family business?

- They were leaving everything familiar in their lives!

- Peter seemed to need some extra convincing. How did Jesus personally draw Peter to follow? (Lk.5:1-11)

- How did Jesus convince you to follow?

3. Luke 8:1-3

- There were female followers of Jesus as well as men. What were some of their different walks of life? How did they make a big impact?

- Who did Jesus allow to be the first witnesses to His resurrection? And how were they received? (Jn 20:1-8; Lk 24:10-11)

4. Mark 10:17-22 (Lk 18:18-24; Mt 19:16-23)

- What kept this young man from following Jesus?
- Why did Jesus bring attention to the man's wealth?
- Despite this young man's inability to follow, how did Jesus feel towards him? (Mark 10:21)

5. Luke 9:57-62

-Jesus experienced different declarations by would-be followers. His responses revealed their deeper motives and the *cost* they needed to grapple with as they considered greater commitment. What did His 3 responses reveal to each would-be follower that could keep them from following?

- 1) He had a need for _____ . (Lk 9:57-58)
- 2) He felt pressure to _____ . (Lk 9:59-60)
- 3) He was torn between _____ and love for Jesus. (Lk 9:61-62)

- Jesus did not lower the bar of discipleship for any of them!
- How do these 3 situations impact you?

6. John 15:1-8 Jesus' last night and words to His disciples

- What does Jesus describe Himself like and who is His Heavenly Father like? (Jn15:1)
- What does Jesus challenge His disciples to do? (Jn15:4)
- Jesus increases the measure a disciple will produce. (Jn15:5)
How much is it? What does He declare will be produced without being connected to Him? _____
- How intimate is this connection that Jesus is describing, using the common cultural knowledge of the grapevine?
- Does Jesus give specifics as to what the 'fruit' will actually be? How does that impact you?
- What does He seem to be after most?

7. John 21:1-23

- What had Peter and some disciples gone to do? (Jn 21: 1-3)
- What miracle did Jesus perform? (Jn 21: 6)
- Peter was genuinely impacted after this second exact miracle. (Lk5 and Jn 21: 7) How did this prepare him for Jesus' challenge?
- Jesus allowed Peter to affirm his love 3 times – perhaps to balance Peter's 3 denials.
- Jesus refocused Peter's calling from fishing to _____.
- Peter asked about John. How did Jesus respond? (Jn 21:2)