



An Unexpected Choice

Simon and Andrew become followers of Jesus

Mark 1:14-18

Teaching aim

God will use for Christian service the gifts and abilities we use every day.

Setting the scene

In a sheltered spot by the Lake of Galilee, fishermen are engaged in their normal work. Some are meticulously repairing their nets, a time consuming job, yet absolutely essential preparation before they can go out fishing again. Some are already in their boat fishing, in the shallow water just off the shore. These men were using the local method of casting the net into the sea and then trawling it or towing it behind the boat for a short distance before pulling it into the boat. By this way they landed their catch of fish. Often they would have to fish out in the much deeper water of the lake.

Jesus was looking for the right kind of men to be His close companions.

Jesus had just started preaching in His home neighbourhood of Galilee, and He was searching for men with special qualities. He felt that fishermen might have them.

He wanted men who had courage. Galilean fishermen were courageous for they sailed their little boats on a huge lake that was famous for sudden tempestuous storms. Such men worked hard, fishing long hours sometimes even at night. They practised great patience in repairing the nets. Another quality was the ability to work as a team. Each boat had at least two crew, such as Simon and Andrew or James and John.

Jesus commands Simon and Andrew to be His followers

As Jesus was walking along the seashore, He watched two fishermen fishing from their boat. They were not very far out in the lake, near enough for Jesus to call to them. They must have been surprised to hear Him shout to them, and even more surprised when He said to them "Follow Me". And before they could think of anything to say, Jesus told them that He had another job for them, not catching fish for He was going to make them "Fishers of men".

Two things Jesus said to them.

1. Come and follow Me. Probably Jesus had watched them at work. He had seen them mend their nets, and fish from their boat. He knew they were the kind of men who would make good followers.
2. I will make you fishers of men. Jesus wanted them to use all their skills no longer catching fish, but to catch men and women and boys and girls for God.

Two things Simon and Andrew did.

1. They thought about what Jesus had said to them. They might have heard about Him or even heard Him preach, for Jesus had been preaching in that region. In their hearts they knew that He was serious and meant business. In no way could they ignore the challenge to join Him. They must have been intrigued to be given a new job, not to catch fish which they were trained to do, but to catch men which they did not have a clue about.

2. Without knowing what the future held for them they decided to follow Jesus. So they left their fishing and went with Jesus.

The first disciples were two brothers. Simon, who is better known as Peter, and his brother Andrew. Each made their own decision and then together they followed Jesus. These brothers have set an example, that it is important to get our brothers and family to follow Jesus.

Summing up

Jesus was able to use both Simon and Andrew because they willingly followed Him, trusting that He would show them what to do. Are you willing to follow Jesus and use your gifts to serve Him?

Resources

Memory verse

"Come follow Me", Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men" Mark 1: 17

Prayer points

- Pray that all the members of our family will come to know the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Pray for all fishermen, particularly those who face the dangers of fishing in stormy seas.
- Pray that we may become "fishers of men" bringing boys and girls into the church.

Activity

Under 8s - Activity Sheet "Simon and Andrew become followers of Jesus 1"

Over 8s - Activity Sheet "Simon and Andrew become followers of Jesus 2"

- Make a list of the qualities you think Christian people should have.
- On a map of Palestine, label the Lake of Galilee, Capernaum and Nazareth.
- Draw a picture of the kind of boat used at the time of Jesus.

TRUE or FALSE

Tick the below **✓** or **✗**

- Jesus was walking by the sea of Galilee when He saw the fishermen.
- Jesus called Simon and his brother John.
- Jesus said He would make them fishers of men.
- When Jesus called them, they washed their nets.
- Jesus said "repent and believe the good news".

The disciples followed Jesus when He called them.

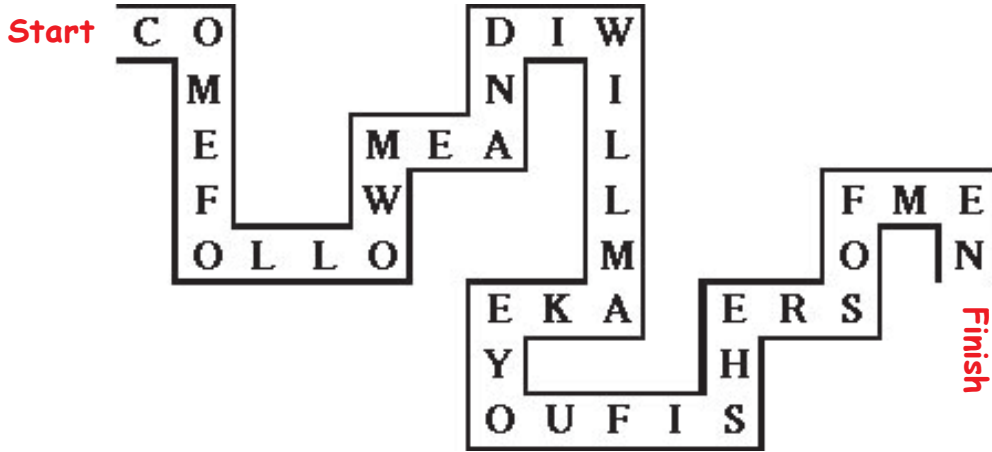
Are you following Jesus?

Cut out the words below, colour them and place them in the right order in this space.

ME	COME	FISHERS
MAKE	FOLLOW	AND
I WILL	OF MEN	YOU

Simon and Andrew become followers of Jesus 2

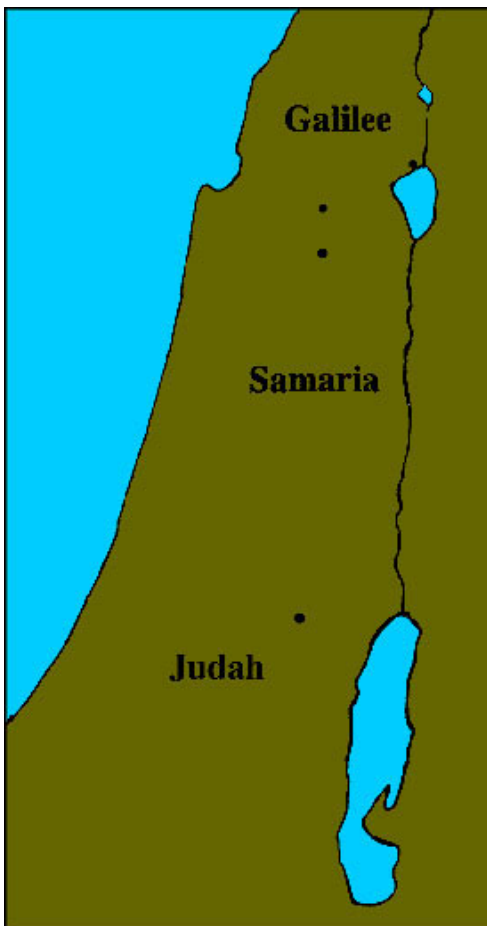
Write in the letters in the spaces below to find what Jesus told the fishermen.



The Land where Jesus lived

Mark the following places on the map:

- Jerusalem
- Cana
- Sea of Galilee
- Mediterranean Sea
- Nazareth
- Capernaum
- Dead Sea



How many of the twelve disciples can you name? Their names are jumbled up below to help you.

- MIONS _____
- WANRED _____
- MEJAS(son of Zebedee) _____
- HJON _____
- LIIPPH _____
- THEMWOOLBAR _____
- TAHSOM _____
- THEMTAW _____
- MEAJJS (son of Alphaeus) _____
- ADDATHEUS _____
- MONIS (the Zealot) _____
- SUDJA _____