

WORD

¹⁸As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰At once they left their nets and followed him.

MATTHEW 4:18-20

Jesus had a plan to change the world, and He did this by making disciples. He called Peter and Andrew to Himself, and their response was immediate and final. Their lives were never the same again after they heard and responded to Jesus’ call. Jesus issues the same call to us today, and as His followers, we are all called to minister to others. In this lesson, we will dissect Jesus’ call to discipleship in Matthew 4:19.

1 Don’t just stand there; come.

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” **MATTHEW 4:19**

Many seem content to see Jesus from afar, but Jesus calls us to go closer to Him. He wants us to draw closer to Him, to know Him and experience Him, and to be changed by Him. He even calls everyone who is weary and burdened to go to Him (Matthew 11:28-30). If we truly went to Him and encountered Him, like Peter and Andrew, we would never be the same. How did Jesus call you to Himself and how did you respond to His invitation?

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2 Don’t just come; follow.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” **MATTHEW 16:24**

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.
1 CORINTHIANS 11:1

Knowing God is the first step. Following Him is next. This means we are to live in the same way Jesus lived. We are not simply to go to church or hear about God—we are to set aside our own agendas and lives to serve and follow Him. What does it mean to *follow* someone? Why do we need to follow others who are following God?

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3 Don’t just follow; fish.

“... I will make you fishers of men.” **MATTHEW 4:19**

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . .” **MATTHEW 28:19**

What Jesus told His disciples when He first called them and right before He ascended into heaven were basically the same—to fish for men and make disciples. What we’ve experienced and understood about God shouldn’t stop with us—we are to tell others about it, too. Why is following Jesus without fishing for men incomplete? How did you become a fisher of men?

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