

# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## WEEK 4

### Jesus calls the disciples

Mark 1:16-20



## DAY 1

Being a disciple of Jesus, Part 1 • Mark 1:16-17, 19-20

### READ

Mark 1:16-28

### EXPLAIN

The truth of Mark 1:16-17, 19-20

What is a **Christian**? A Christian is a disciple of Jesus, someone who follows His lead and submits to His authority. This is because Jesus is in charge. As the Son of God and promised King (1:3, 11), Jesus has supreme authority. So the only right response is to follow wherever He leads, and no one can be a Christian who is not a disciple of Jesus. So what is discipleship? What does it mean to be a Christian, a true follower of Jesus? First, discipleship begins with Jesus' personal call. And whom did Jesus call? Instead of choosing noble and majestic followers, Jesus chose fishermen (1:16, 19)! Fishermen weren't necessarily poor; after all, Zebedee was wealthy enough to employ day-laborers (1:20). But fishermen were common; they were ordinary men, nothing special. So why fishermen? Jesus' choice reveals an important truth about discipleship: it's all about His glory, not the disciple's. He chooses the foolish, the weak, and the unimpressive, so that the one who boasts can boast only in the Lord (1 Cor 1:26, 31).

### ASK

1. What does "disciple" mean?  
*It means "follower." This is what it means to be a Christian.*
2. Why should we follow Jesus?  
*Because Jesus has authority. Jesus is in charge.*
3. What kind of people does Jesus choose to be His followers?  
*He chooses ordinary people.*
4. Where does discipleship begin?  
*Discipleship begins with Jesus' personal call.*

### DISCUSS

1. Sometimes Christians act like they are better than others because they are Christians. Why is this not true?
2. List some areas in your life where you are not submitting to Jesus' authority. What needs to change? Confess and pray for Jesus to help you follow His lead.

## DAY 2

Being a disciple of Jesus, Part 2 • Mark 1:17–18, 20

### READ

Mark 1:16–28

### EXPLAIN

The truth of Mark 1:17–18, 20

What does it mean to be a Christian? Since Jesus has supreme authority, a **Christian** is a person who obeys Jesus as the leader and ruler of his life. So a Christian is a disciple, a follower. Instead of getting distracted by the worries, wealth, and wants of this world, a true follower hears and obeys every word of Christ (Mark 4:19–20). He stops trying to control his own life and instead lets Jesus take the lead (8:34)—not just on Sunday or during quiet times, but all day, every day, in every area of life. Discipleship is also a personal relationship. Jesus commanded Simon and Andrew to follow Him, not tradition or money or fame. He didn't even tell them to follow a creed or a church or a preacher, just Him. So a **Christian** is a person who lives in a close relationship with Jesus (John 15:4; Gal 2:20). Like a branch drawing life-giving nourishment from the vine, is your life closely connected to Jesus and dependent upon Him (John 15:5)? Are you a true disciple of Jesus?

### ASK

1. What did Simon, Andrew, James, and John do when Jesus called them?  
*They left everything and followed Him.*
2. How do we follow Jesus?  
*By giving Him control of every area of our life.*
3. Whom did Jesus command Simon and Andrew to follow?  
*Him.*
4. With whom must every Christian have a deep, personal relationship?  
*Jesus.*

### DISCUSS

1. Do you like the game “Simon Says”? How is the life of a Christian similar to this game?
2. Why can there be no discipleship without a relationship? What can you do to be close to Jesus?

## DAY 3

Being a disciple of Jesus, Part 3 • Mark 1:17–18, 20

### READ

Mark 1:16–28

### EXPLAIN

The truth of Mark 1:17–18, 20

A Christian is a disciple, someone who follows Jesus. But where is Jesus leading, and how closely must we follow? Jesus came to lead people into the kingdom of God, calling them to repent and believe (Mark 1:15). So He called Simon and Andrew to do the same. Instead of laboring to get fish into a boat, their new mission in life was to get people into God's kingdom. So a **Christian** is

a person with a mission from God to bring others into His kingdom (Matt 22:9; 28:19–20). This mission requires immediate and complete devotion to Jesus (Mark 1:18). James and John did not let anything—even family and career—come between them and Jesus (1:20). That does not mean we have to get rid of our jobs, family, or possessions (Mark 1:29–31). But it means that a Christian's life is now defined by something else—by a relationship with Jesus Himself. So a **Christian** is a person who puts Jesus first and does not let anything else get between him and Jesus. Anything less fails to treat Jesus as the authoritative Son of God.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. What work did Jesus call the fishermen to do?  
*He called them to fish for men—to bring others into the kingdom of God.*
2. How quickly did Simon and Andrew respond?  
*They followed Jesus right away.*
3. What did James and John leave behind?  
*They left behind their boat, their nets, and their father Zebedee.*
4. Why must a Christian put Jesus first, before everything and everyone else?  
*Because Jesus is completely in charge. He has authority as the Son of God.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. What are some ways you can “fish for men” this week?
2. Being a disciple of Jesus means obeying Him quickly and completely. Jesus’ main command for children is to obey mom and dad. Do you obey mom and dad (Eph 6:1)? Do you respond quickly and obey completely?

**DAY 4***Jesus spoke with authority • Mark 1:21–22***READ** 

Mark 1:16–28

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Mark 1:21–22**

The call to discipleship is hard! Who would want to give up his freedom and bind himself to one Master? Becoming a disciple of Jesus involves great sacrifice (Luke 14:26–33). However, in the rest of Mark, Jesus will show that the sacrifice is worth it (Mark 3:34; 10:29–30). But here in the beginning of Mark’s gospel, he gives just one reason: Jesus deserves to be followed. And since Jesus has all authority, the only wise response is to accept Him as your leader. We see Jesus’ authority in His teaching. He began teaching in Capernaum, a fairly large town (perhaps around 10,000) on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum was also on a trade route, so news about Jesus was able to spread quickly. It was customary to gather in the synagogue on the Sabbath to listen to several respected men read and teach from Scripture. Jesus entered the synagogue and began to teach, but instead of repeating the oral traditions of the scribes, He spoke by His own authority. The difference between His teaching and the scribes’ was unmistakable—the people were “astonished.”

**ASK** 

1. What was different about Jesus’ teaching?  
*Instead of repeating what other people said about the Bible, He taught with His own authority.*
2. How did the people respond to Jesus’ teaching?  
*They were astonished.*
3. Why is the call to discipleship hard?  
*Being a disciple means giving up our freedom and binding ourselves to one Master, Jesus.*
4. Why should we follow Jesus?  
*As the One with all authority, Jesus deserves to be followed.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. How do you respond to authority? Do you obey coaches or teachers better than you obey your parents?
2. List ways you have to give up your own desires every day to follow Jesus.

# DAY 5

Jesus acted with authority • Mark 1:23–28

## READ

Mark 1:16–28

## EXPLAIN

### The truth of Mark 1:23–28

Just how great is Jesus' authority? When a screaming, demon-possessed man rushed into the synagogue, Jesus proved His authority by casting out the demon. He spoke one word and the demon could speak no more. He spoke just four more words, and the demon was forced out. The people were amazed; Jesus had absolute authority in both words and actions. Even the demon himself admitted Jesus' great authority, recognizing His sinlessness and deity. But why command the demon to be silent? While the demon's words were true, Jesus rejected his testimony in order to guard against charges that He cast out demons by the power of Satan (3:22; Acts 16:16–18). The watching crowd was amazed because they got the point: Jesus has great authority. But they missed the bigger picture: if Jesus really is the Holy One of God, if Jesus really does have supreme authority, then He is to be followed. Have you responded to Jesus' authority by becoming His follower? Do you follow completely? You must follow Jesus, because He is in charge.

## ASK

1. What did the demon recognize about Jesus?  
*That Jesus was the sinless Son of God.*
2. How did the people respond when Jesus cast out the demon?  
*They were amazed.*
3. Why did Jesus tell the demon to be silent?  
*In order to guard against charges that He cast out demons by the power of Satan.*
4. In what three ways did Jesus prove His authority?  
*(1) He called the disciples with authority. (2) He taught with authority. (3) He cast out a demon with authority.*

## DISCUSS

1. What can we do with our words? What can God do with His words (Gen 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26; Ps 33:6)?
2. Think about your words and actions this week. Who have you been serving with them: you, or Jesus?

## NEXT WEEK

### Jesus commends the Centurion's faith

Matthew 8:5–13

