

Ordinary Disciples | Family Worship Guide

Mark 1:14-20



MAIN IDEA: The call to follow Jesus is urgent and costly.

PREPARATION:

What is your favorite thing you own? What is your favorite thing to do? How would you feel if one of your friends came to you and said, “If you want to be my friend, you have to get rid of your favorite stuff or stop doing your favorite things?” In this passage Jesus calls his first disciples and they left everything they loved to follow Him. Why do you think they did that?

EXPLANATION:

Some people misrepresent Jesus and what it means to follow Him. The gospel is good news, but following Jesus is not easy and painless. As one of my friends says, “It’s not all rainbows and unicorns.” We get a glimpse of this as Jesus begins His ministry. We are told His forerunner, John the Baptist, was arrested. It wasn’t because he committed a crime, but because he boldly preached the Truth. The summary of Jesus preaching that Mark gives us has a bold and confrontational tone, just like John the Baptist did. When He says, “the kingdom of God is at hand,” it is exciting news because Jews had been waiting hundreds of years for the Messiah to come and bring about the kingdom. Yet, it was also frightening because they knew they were not ready—just like us, they had sin in their lives. Jesus’ message for them was to repent and trust in Him. [Go to Conversation Question 1 below]

Jesus’ message demanded a response. Some people believed Him and obeyed. Others would get angry with Him and try to stop Him. He preached the gospel openly to crowds of people, but he also invited some special people to follow Him as His disciples. These are the people he would spend the most time with, who would become the leaders in His kingdom on earth. They are not the sort of people I would choose. I remember when we played basketball during recess at Northside Elementary. Before we played, we chose two captains and they would take turns picking people for their team. Sometimes I was one of the captains. My goal was to get the best players I could on my team, so I tried to get the fastest, highest jumping, best shooting, best dribbling people I could. Why? Because, we all know that’s how you win! Yet when Jesus picked His team, He didn’t get the best of the best. He didn’t get people who were the most trained in theology, or the strongest and boldest leaders, or even the best behaved. For His first disciples, He chose fisherman. They were ordinary people like us.

When He called them He told them they would have to leave their jobs and their family to be devoted to Him and His mission. Even though He didn’t promise them a luxurious life, they surrendered everything without hesitation in order to follow Him. Simon, Andrew, James, and John provide for us a clear picture of what is required to be a follower of Jesus. We don’t have to be the smartest, or the best, but we do have to be willing to surrender and let Him have His way in our lives. The reason they were able to respond without hesitation is because God was working in their hearts. Even though they didn’t fully understand what it would mean to follow Jesus, they knew this is what they were supposed to do. When God opens our eyes to the problem of our sin and the truth of the gospel, it is important that we respond with urgency. Do not put it off until later. We have no idea what is coming later. We may not have the same opportunity. We will probably become distracted with other things. Our hearts may become hardened. We may miss out, and the people that Jesus is calling us to help rescue will miss out on the opportunity to hear the gospel from us.

CONVERSATION:

- Do you remember what it means to repent? Jesus is telling people that they are guilty of sin. Do you like when someone tells you that you're wrong?
- Why do you think Jesus didn't choose an "all star" team to be His disciples? Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.
- What are some reasons that following Jesus is hard?
- Is there anything that you are afraid Jesus may want you to give up that you don't want to?

APPLICATION:

- **SURRENDER:** Following Jesus doesn't mean that we have to give away our favorite toy, quit our job, or stop doing what we love, but it does mean that we have to surrender everything to Him. If what we love is sin, then we have to stop. If we love it more than we love Him, it is an idol and we must repent. Surrender means that in everything we do, we strive to please Him.
- **CONFIDENCE:** Jesus doesn't need anything from us. It doesn't matter how weak we are, or how much we feel inadequate. He intends to accomplish His perfect plan through imperfect people like you. Trust Him and let Him work through you as you share the gospel with other people.

SUPPLICATION:

Father, thank you for loving us and bringing your gospel to us. We realize that many people have never heard of Jesus and how He restores our relationship to you. But you have entrusted it to us. Help us to follow you faithfully and share the gospel boldly. Show us if there is something keeping us from following you and being fishers of men. Forgive us of being selfish and distracted. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

EXULTATION:

[All I Have is Christ by Sovereign Grace Music](#)

I once was lost in darkest night
Yet thought I knew the way
The sin that promised joy and life
Had led me to the grave
I had no hope that You would own
A rebel to Your will
And if You had not loved me first
I would refuse You still

But as I ran my hell-bound race
Indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state
And led me to the cross
And I beheld God's love displayed

You suffered in my place
You bore the wrath reserved for me
Now all I know is grace

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life

Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone
And live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands
Could never come from me
Oh Father, use my ransomed life
In any way You choose
And let my song forever be
My only boast is You