

Jesus had been led into the desert for a time of testing by Satan. He fasted 40 days and nights, when the tempter appeared and tried to cause Him to sin. But Jesus quoted God's Word to the devil and came out of the desert in victory. Jesus is the sinless one who was tempted like we are. Then Jesus went out where His cousin, John the Baptist, was preaching, and He began to preach too. Jesus' message was, "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" He began to teach the crowds that with the coming of Christ, the King, it brought the Kingdom near the people. Jesus, who is God, had come to earth to bring God's kingdom to them. This was the good news of the One they would call the Messiah that they had heard for centuries. People were excited about this possibility, but the religious leaders were skeptical of Jesus.

When John saw Jesus, he again told the crowd that Jesus was the Lamb of God who had come to take away the sins of the world. John told them about the confirmation God had sent when Jesus was baptized. Those who had come to see John began to listen to Jesus. The religious leaders questioned who Jesus was. They grew uncomfortable with this man who seemed to be upsetting their religious authority over the people.

John had preached so strongly about repentance of sin that he was known throughout the region. He had clearly condemned the sins of the leaders, and for that John was finally thrown into prison. This caused many followers to begin looking to Jesus. Some men who had listened to Jesus' teaching on the kingdom of God asked Him if they could follow Him to where He was staying. They spent all day listening to Jesus teach. One man was named Andrew. As soon as Andrew heard the words of Jesus, he ran to find his brother, Simon. Andrew told him, "We have found the Messiah" and brought Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked at Simon and told him his name was changed to Cephas, which is translated to Peter. These men listened to Jesus' teaching.

One day Jesus took a walk along the shores of the Sea of Galilee. He watched Simon, now called Peter, and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the lake. These men were fishermen and used nets to gather fish for a living. Jesus called out, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." They pulled in their nets and followed Jesus. These men believed Jesus was sent by God, the One they had all been waiting for, the Messiah.

Just a little farther along the shore Jesus saw James and his brother John. They were in their boat repairing nets when Jesus called them to follow Him. Both brothers left their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired crew and they followed Jesus. After hearing Jesus' teaching these men all believed that this was the Messiah, the One God had sent to lead His people. They were willing to leave their jobs as fishermen so they could learn how to catch people with this good news.

## Teacher's Notes

- I. **Jesus entered Galilee.**
  - A. He left the desert victorious.
  - B. He appeared near John.
- II. **Jesus had a message.**
  - A. John proclaimed the news.
  - B. Followers took note.
- III. **He began to call disciples.**
  - A. John imprisoned.
  - B. Andrew tells his brother.
- IV. **A walk along the shore.**
  - A. Fishermen at work.
  - B. Nets left behind.

## Activity

Students enjoy making a craft that helps them remember the story. Today they can make a simple boat from folded paper. You may also choose to use small boxes or other materials to create a boat. They can use a stick or straw for a single mast and thread a paper sail onto the mast. On the side of the ship they can write today's memory verse.

## Teacher Growth

Objects or artwork made in class reinforce the lesson in several ways. While the students are working you can discuss how the craft relates to the lesson and retell the story. When they take the craft home they have a reminder of the lesson to share with family and friends. Days after the class is over they see the craft and are reminded of the lesson's point.

## Scripture Passages:

John 1:35-42; Mark 1:16-20

## Memory Verse:

Matthew 4:19 – "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."





