

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening

Week 16: This week we listen as Jesus calls his first four disciples. We wonder if they know who he is already or if this is the first time they see him.

As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen.

And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

As Jesus went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.

Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Matthew 4.18-22

We notice that Simon and Andrew are casting their net into the sea when Jesus calls them. That means they are fishing while floating in a boat off shore. How long do they wait before following Jesus? Not at all! Does that mean they leave their net in the boat and jump into the water?? Why? What could it be about Jesus that makes them want to follow him so badly?

Ages 6-9

“Follow me...”

When Jesus calls James and John, they are fixing nets in their father’s boat. They must be fairly young if they still work for their dad. We notice that their dad does not seem to object to the boys leaving everything and following Jesus. What can this mean? What does Zebedee sense? What does this tell us about the kind of person Jesus is?

Ages 9-12

Choose the reflective questions that suit your family:

Four people follow Jesus right away when he calls them. They do not stop to think. We wonder why. We remember that the Good Shepherd calls his own sheep by name and they follow because they know his voice. Do Peter and Andrew, James and John know his voice, too? We wonder what his voice sounds like. If Jesus called us by our name, would we follow him right away, too?

Ages 3-6

Jesus meets both sets of brothers while they perform ordinary tasks. They do not look for him; he finds them. What would Jesus meet us doing? Simon & Andrew may think they know exactly what they will do that day; then Jesus changes everything. James & John may think that infinite paths stretch before them; then Jesus changes everything. When he calls us, will we let him change everything?

teenagers

Read the scripture.

Ask questions.

Listen to each other’s answers.

Then pray the prayer together on page 2.

Listen Prayer

One person leads and everyone else responds (R.)

Lord, our God,

We praise you for the wisdom of your will that unfolds all around us. We desire to enter more profoundly into this mystery, to root ourselves firmly in your will, to listen ever more deeply to you.

R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen closely to your Word—to the words on the page and the meaning they invoke, to the human author and to the divine, to the spaces between the letters where your Spirit dwells.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen attentively to Creation—to the voice of the earth, to the whispering of wind and waves, to the silence of the rocks and soil and swarms of voiceless creatures.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen respectfully to the culture that surrounds us—to its wisdom and its folly, to the loud voices and the quiet, to that which can teach us and form us and expand our thinking.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

And teach us, Lord, to listen deeply to one another—to what we speak aloud and to what we leave unsaid, to our needs and to our concerns, to the love and the longing and desires of our hearts.

**R. We come before you.
We make ourselves still.
We listen to understand.
Amen.**

