

Read Mark 1.14-20

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

In today's reading, Jesus was starting to choose his followers. In those days, many Jewish teachers had followers called disciples, which means 'people who learn.' They would try to learn their master's teaching by heart. Is that the way that we learn at school nowadays? Jesus was different from other Jewish teachers. Instead of waiting until people decided to follow him, Jesus called the four fishermen to be his disciples.



The disciples of most Jewish teachers were well educated, but Jesus chose ordinary people. Why do you think he did that?

When Jesus called the fishermen, they left their work immediately. Their new job was to 'catch' people, drawing them into the 'net' of the kingdom of God. It was a big decision to take. They made up their minds very quickly. What do you think you would have done?

So why did the disciples follow Jesus? Maybe:

- they had heard Jesus teach before and liked what he said;
- they had been followers of John the Baptist, and he had pointed them to Jesus;
- they thought he was a very exciting person.

What do you think? Was it because of what he said, who he is, or both? Does Jesus call us to follow him every day too? How can we commit our lives to him and become 'fishers of people' too?

Activity



- This image of a fish was often used by early Christians. Can you find out why they chose a symbol like this? What do the letters ICHTHUS stand for?

Prayer

Lord, help me to hear and respond when you call.

Let my life be a space in which you can work in the world.

Clear away my inner rubbish, and fill me with your Spirit of healing, delight and peace, so that everything I do may be the fruit of your life in me. Amen.