



Diocese of Chichester

Living the Mystery of Faith

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW

YOUTH LENT COURSE

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

WEEK 2

CALLING

AIM/THEME

Jesus calls ordinary people to join in with his mission

LEARNING OUTCOME

God owns the mission! This is not about believing this is about participating - actually doing!

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Facility to play a video from YouTube
- Paper, Scissors, a collection of flappy objects.
- A fishing/crabbing net
- String, pens, notice board or something you can pin your mission net onto.
- Printouts of memory verse for taking away

INFORMAL START

A MOMENT OF MERCY

Reflection from last week's takeaway. Did you show mercy to somebody? What happened? How did they respond? How did it make you feel?

Ask people to share with the group as everyone is arriving. If they aren't responsive to this try a desert island icebreaker. If you could take three friends to a desert island who would they be? If you could take three items, what would they be?

ICEBREAKER

FLAPPY FISH GAME

This can be a straight line race or you can get creative with obstacles in the space you have.

Get people to cut out a vague fish shape from paper which they will race with. Make some different “Flapping objects” available to propel the fish. Flexible chopping boards, newspapers, books, a towel, electric fan etc.

Depending on the size of the group you may want to make this a relay race with different legs.

Individuals or teams choose their propellant to flap their paper fish around the race course.

First person across the finish line wins.

BIBLE READING & CONTEXT

MATTHEW 4:18-22

Jesus calls Simon (Peter) and Andrew, saying follow me and I will make you fishers of men.

This call of “Follow Me” is not one that Jesus just made up. It was what was called by rabbis to the special students that they chose to come and be their disciples to study the Torah. Their interpretations form them; and eventually they become rabbis themselves.

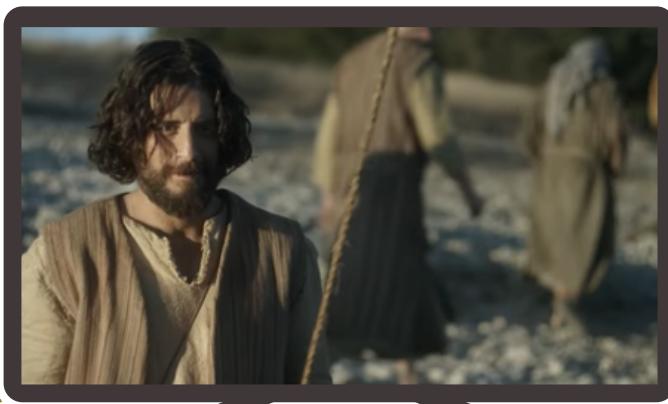
Only the best of the best were called and the rest went to join their family business of carpentry, fishing etc.

For a rabbi to call a fisherman was unheard of, because these were the people that had already missed the chance to disciple with a great teacher.

And yet, Jesus comes calling “follow me” to those that would least expect to hear that call. This sets the scene for Jesus ministry going to the last, the least, and the lost.

VIDEO CLIP

www.youtube.com/watch?v=3AFSG_QAMKK



Like last week, this is a clip from the chosen. Zebedee says, this is the man we've been praying for our whole lives. They're talking about Jesus as the messiah, the Jews believed lots of things about who the messiah would be but all were expectant of a great leader that would bring some conclusion to God's promises particular, justice, peace and unity. God's call is present today as well. The Holy spirit is still working here in the world, going before us and working in the lives of all people in our community. The call is to join in with what he's doing!

DISCUSSION

What do you think it would have felt like for the disciples to leave their nets and follow Jesus?

- Prompt: What might they have been risking or giving up?
- Follow-up: What “nets” do people our age hold onto - things that keep us feeling safe or in control?

Jesus didn't give them much detail: just “Follow me.” Why do you think they said yes?

- Prompt: Have you ever taken a risk without knowing the outcome?
- Follow-up: What might “faith” look like in everyday life?
- Extra: What would they have understood about who the Messiah was?

If Jesus said to you “Follow me” today, what do you think He'd be asking you to leave behind, and what would He want to lead you into?

- Prompt: Encourage personal reflection.
- Follow-up: Emphasise that following isn't about being perfect, it's about trusting and taking a next step.
- Extra: What is the call of God today to all people? – Encourage discussion about a call to action, a call to love people. A call to watch and see where God is working and join in.

Where have you seen God at work in your community? How can you join in?

- Prompt: Encourage everyone to think about times they've experienced a sense of awe or wonder. When have they seen prayers answered?
- Follow-Up: If you've seen God moving, how else can you join in after today?

RESPONSE

Play the song “Oceans” (Hillsong).

Whilst the song is playing, Using the paper fish from the first game. Have young people write on the fish two things.

1. Something they feel God is calling them to this week and a way that they can be a witness for Him.
2. Somebody they want to lift to God in prayer with a need or where they want to see more of God working in their lives.

When the song finishes ask people to place their paper fish into the net that you have.

Pray for them all.

MEMORY VERSE

Ask who can remember the memory very from last week!

Get people up to act it out and do it in different voices putting emphasis on different words in the sentence to see how they think Jesus might have said it.

Have a vote on who did it best.

"COME, FOLLOW ME," JESUS SAID, "AND I WILL SEND YOU OUT TO FISH FOR PEOPLE."
— MATTHEW 4:19

Make a mission net

Names or words written on cards which join together using string to make a giant net. This can be hung up as a reference for the next weeks.

Get young people to write down ways they as individuals or you as a group can love and serve your community. You can write things that you already do as well as things you'd like to do to have more impact in your community.

TAKEAWAY

Take it in turns to have a bucket or net and stand at one end of the room. Everyone else throws ball pit balls at them to catch all at the same time, a barrage!

Decide in advance which colours they want and which colours to avoid! Count up when they've all been thrown:

+1 point for every good colour and -1 point for every bad colour

MEMORY VERSE

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