

REACH COMMUNITY CHURCH

Children's Ministry Parent Take Home | Week 39 | September 27, 2026

JESUS CALLS HIS DISCIPLES

Bible Passage: Matthew 4:12-25

Big Idea: Jesus calls ordinary people to follow Him, and He changes His followers so they can help others know Him.

MEMORY VERSE

"Come, follow me." Matthew 4:19

Help your child understand it: Jesus said these words to fishermen named Peter and Andrew. He was not merely inviting them to hear a lesson. He was calling them to belong to Him, learn from Him, trust Him, and follow Him.

Try saying the verse together several times this week, then ask: **"Who are we following?" Answer: Jesus.**

TODAY YOUR CHILD LEARNED

Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee and saw ordinary fishermen working with their nets. He called Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him.

"Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people." Matthew 4:19

A **disciple** is someone who belongs to Jesus, learns from Jesus, trusts Jesus, and follows Jesus. The disciples were not perfect people. As we continue reading the Gospels, we see them misunderstand, become frightened, argue, and fail. Jesus knew all of that when He called them. That is good news for us because Jesus does not wait for us to become perfect before we come to Him.

WHY JESUS MATTERS

The disciples are not the heroes of this account. **Jesus is.** Jesus is God the Son. He lived without sin. He died on the cross for our sins and rose again. Romans 5:8 says, **"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."** We cannot save ourselves by becoming better people. When we turn from sin and trust Jesus, He forgives us and gives us new life. Then God continues working in us. The Holy Spirit helps those who belong to Jesus grow, obey Him, and become more like Christ. Following Jesus begins with His grace, not our strength.

TALK ABOUT IT AT HOME

What is a disciple? A disciple is someone who belongs to Jesus, learns from Jesus, trusts Jesus, and follows Jesus.

Were Peter and the other disciples perfect when Jesus called them? No. They had much to learn and sometimes failed badly. They needed Jesus to save them just as we do.

What did Jesus mean by "fish for people"? Jesus would prepare His followers to help other people hear the good news about Him and become His disciples.

What might following Jesus look like for a child? Telling the truth, obeying parents, admitting when we are wrong, showing kindness, forgiving others, praying when afraid, and choosing what Jesus says is right.

Do those good choices save us? No. Jesus saves us. We obey Him because we belong to Him.

DEFENDING THE TRUTH AT HOME

Your child may ask: **"Did these fishermen really meet Jesus and immediately leave everything?"** Matthew tells us that Jesus called them and they followed Him. John 1 also records earlier encounters between Jesus and some of these men. That means we should not assume Matthew 4 describes the very first moment they had ever seen Jesus. The Gospel writers sometimes include different true details about the same people and events.

A simple way to explain this is: **"Two people can tell the truth about the same day while choosing different parts of the day to talk about."** We do not need to be afraid of questions. We can ask: **What does the Bible actually say? What do other Bible passages tell us? What are we only guessing about?**

TRY THIS AS A FAMILY

Choose one everyday situation: someone at school is left out; you broke something and nobody saw; you became angry and said something hurtful; you are frightened about something; or someone asks why you believe in Jesus. Ask your child: **"If I belong to Jesus, what might following Him look like here?"** Talk through the answer together. Then remind your child: **"We do not obey Jesus to make Him save us. We follow Jesus because He is our Savior."** Finish by saying the memory verse together: **"Come, follow me." Matthew 4:19.**

PRAY TOGETHER

Father, thank You for sending Jesus. Jesus, thank You for calling sinners to Yourself and for dying and rising again to save us. Holy Spirit, help us trust Jesus, learn from Him, and follow Him in our everyday lives. Give us courage to tell others about Jesus with kindness and truth. Amen.

A Final Thought for Parents: Your child does not need to become an impressive Christian overnight. Neither did Peter. Keep bringing your child back to Jesus. Read His Word together, answer questions honestly, pray when life is hard, and remind your child that Jesus is the Savior who forgives, teaches, changes, and stays with His people.