



Lesson 1 : Follow Me

Main Point

Jesus invites you to join him on a lifelong journey of discipleship.

- **Discipleship** is the lifelong journey of following Jesus in order to learn from him and become like him. “Disciple” is what the first followers of Jesus were called, and it is another word for student.
- When Jesus calls us to be his disciples, he calls us to leave behind what we think we know and follow him instead. At the heart of this call is an invitation into a relationship with God. God sent his Son Jesus into the world so that we could know him. Following Jesus is about coming to know the God who already knows you perfectly and finding your true life and purpose in that relationship.

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11 NLT

1 One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. 2 He noticed two empty boats at the water’s edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. 3 Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.”

5 “Master,” Simon replied, “we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing. But if you say so, I’ll let the nets down again.” 6 And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! 7 A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

8 When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.” 9 For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. 10 His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Jesus replied to Simon, “Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people!” 11 And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

Exploring the Scripture:

- What stands out to you about this story?
- What do you notice about how Jesus and Simon interact with each other?
- Simon Peter responded to the miracle by falling to his knees and saying, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.”
 - What do you think it means to be sinful?
 - How do you observe people around you being sinful? How are you sinful toward others?
- What does Jesus mean when he tells Simon, “From now on you’ll be fishing for people!”?
- What do you think it means that Simon and his coworkers “left everything and followed Jesus”?

Applying It to My Life:

- What might you need to leave behind to follow Jesus more fully? (Consider beliefs, habits, relationships, desires, pressures, expectations, etc.)
- Do you know what your purpose is? What would it look like for you to trust Jesus to give your life purpose?

Journal Prompt:

Write a prayer in response to Jesus' invitation to walk with him. If you are not sure what to write, you can use these prompts as a guide:

- Can you relate to Simon Peter’s sense of being a sinful man or of being far away from God? Talk to God about the reasons you feel distant and ask Jesus to bring you closer to him.
- Use these verses from Psalm 25 to ask God to guide you as you follow Jesus.

*“Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow.
Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me.
All day long I put my hope in you.”*

Psalm 25:4-5 (NLT)