

THE LORD'S DISCIPLES

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And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

(Matthew 4:18-22)

Children: This morning we read about how the Lord began to call His disciples around Him, and how they followed Him. It was while He was walking along the shore of the sea of Galilee that the Lord saw two brothers, Peter and Andrew, fishing from their boats. They must have been close to the shore, for the Lord said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." And immediately, they left their nets and followed the Lord. Then, a little further along the shore, the Lord saw two other brothers named James and John. They were in a boat with Zebedee, their father, mending their fishing nets. When Jesus called them, they left the boat and their father and followed the Lord.

So Peter was the first of the disciples to be called by the Lord. Next were Andrew, James and John. Altogether, the Lord called twelve disciples, who left their homes and followed the Lord wherever He went. They listened to His teaching. They learned many wonderful things about Him, and about the life of heaven. They watched Him heal sick people and do many miracles. Later, the Lord sent them out on their own to teach others about His coming.

This is what the Lord had meant when He said, "I will make you fishers of men." For instead of gathering fish, the twelve disciples now gathered men, and women and children who could love the Lord, who were willing to obey His commandments, and who could become a part of His church. The disciples taught these people about the Lord; they baptized those who believed, and they healed the sick. But often they would come back to the Lord to be with Him and to learn more from Him.

Would you like to be a disciple of the Lord, too? Did you know that the Lord calls each one of you to be His disciple? And you can be one, if you listen carefully when the Word is being read, and then try to do what the Lord says is true and good, no matter how hard it might seem. Then you will be following the Lord, and you will be His disciple.

Amen.