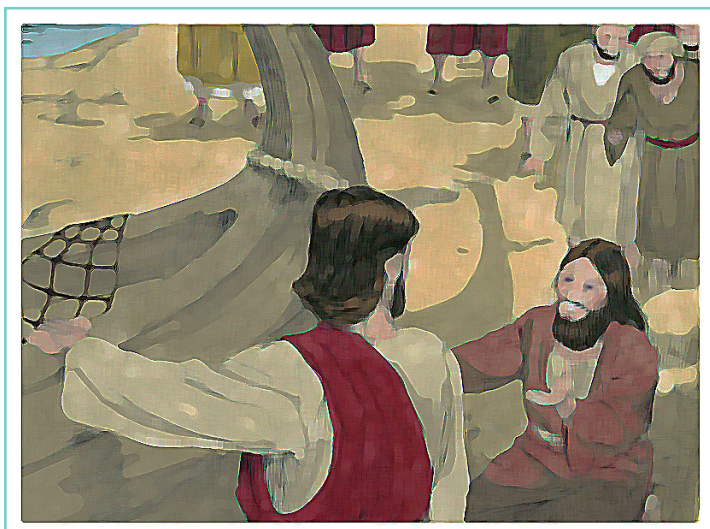


Lesson 2: Discipleship



Old Testament

New Testament

Where in the Bible?

The Gospel of Luke is the third book of the New Testament.

The New Testament: Discipleship

The word “disciple” means student or apprentice — one who learns. Jesus called many people to follow him as disciples. Among the men and women who accompanied him in his travels, the disciples who were the closest to him were known as “the Twelve.”

Biblical Background

Much of Jesus’ early ministry took place in the region of Galilee, on the northern end of the Holy Land. He traveled the through cities around the Sea of Galilee, often crossing over from one side to another.

Jesus did not come to the rich and powerful; he came to the ordinary people of the world and called them to be his followers. His first disciples were fishermen, two pairs of brothers: Andrew and Simon Peter, and James and John. As we see in today’s story, they understood that they were not worthy of Jesus’ grace, but they picked up and followed him nevertheless.

Introduction

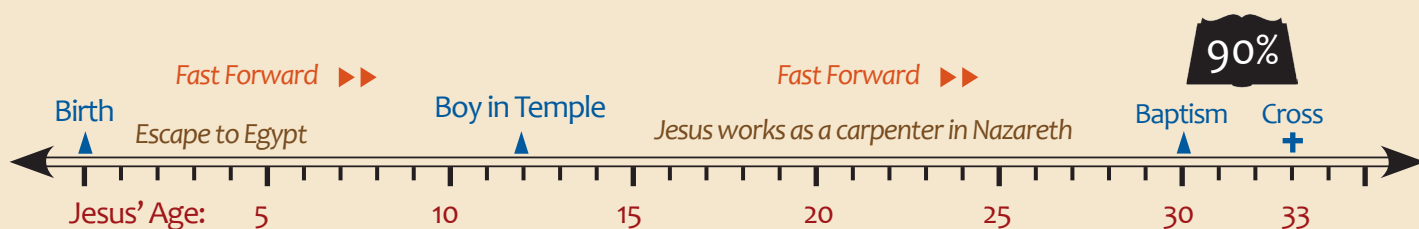
As Jesus was teaching along the shores of the sea, he came upon some fishermen. He asked one, named Simon, to take him out on the water, where Jesus produced a great catch of fish. Jesus then called Simon and some of the others to follow him.

Read: Luke 5:1-11

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

When in Time?

After Jesus’ birth and infancy, there is very little information in the Bible about his life until the time of his public ministry, which he started at about the age of 30. Almost 90 percent of the information we have in the Gospels comes from these last three years of Jesus’ life. During this time Jesus traveled around Galilee and Judea, performing miracles, teaching the people, and announcing God’s forgiveness.

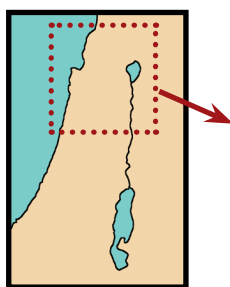


Discuss: Luke 5:1-11

1. If Jesus' intention was to teach the people, why do you think he got into a boat and put a distance between them? Why didn't he move closer?
2. Why were Simon and the other fishermen so tired? Do you think they really wanted to go back out on the lake with Jesus? Why do you think they did so?
3. What does the miraculous catch of fish tell us about Jesus' power? Can you think of any other stories where Jesus did something with fish? What theme do these stories have in common?
4. Jesus had just done an amazing thing for Simon. Why did he tell Jesus to go away? What was he feeling at that moment?
5. Have you ever had something really good or special happen to you that made you feel like you didn't deserve it? How is God's grace like that? How does God bless us in ways that we do not deserve?
6. What did Jesus mean when he said, "from now on you will be catching men"? To what new work was Jesus calling them?
7. In verse 5, Simon said, "At your word I will let down the nets." How is Jesus' *word* an important theme in this whole lesson? Who is the source of the Word? Who needs to hear the Word?
8. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. In what way is it reassuring to know that God works through ordinary people like us? What does that show about God himself?

Where in the World?

The smaller map shows the region we refer to as the Holy Land — the land of Israel. The larger map is a close-up view of the northern part of this land, called **Galilee**. This is where Jesus grew up, in the town of **Nazareth**. It is also where many of his first disciples came from as well.



- 1) Matthew refers to the body of water in today's story as the **Sea of Gennesaret**. This sea was actually more like a large lake. It goes by several other names in the Bible:
 - a. **The Sea of Galilee**, the regional name
 - b. **The Sea of Tiberius**, the Roman name
 - c. **The Sea of Chinnereth**, the Old Testament name
- 2) Today's story took place near the city of **Capernaum**. The coastal land on this side of the lake was also called Gennesaret, meaning *the garden of the prince*.

