

January 2026 Lessons

Notes: Another year! January through May will be a quick journey through the New Testament!

Rainbow Routine	Fireweed Routine	Trees & Mountains Routine
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Music time ● Circle Time: Discuss the verse and basics of the Bible (God wrote this, parts of the Bible, how to treat it) & Lesson on the story - if kids will sit long enough ● Play time ● Table time - lesson on the story (if not done earlier or repeat it again) ● Snack Time ● Coloring page/activity/play time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Greet the kids ● Ask if they memorized the verse from last week, work on verse with kids who are interested ● Music time ● Bathroom ● Snack ● Movement game ● Lesson time at rug (story & memory verse) ● Craft/coloring page 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Greet kids / arrival activities (verse work, clipboards, free drawing) ● Music time ● Lesson on the story ● Split into groups / rotate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prayer ○ Activities/crafts ○ Lesson recap ○ Memory verse <p>*If there are not enough helpers, sometimes it is easier to do it altogether instead of splitting and rotating kids.</p>

Jan 11, 2026 - The Boy Jesus

Jan 18, 2026 - Jesus Calls the Disciples

Jan 25, 2026 - The Wedding at Cana

Jesus Calls the First Disciples Mark 1:16-21, John 1:29-51

Story:

★ Introduction & Story:

Remember that we talked about a baby named John being born to Elisabeth? Well, John became a very important person. In the Old Testament, in the book of Isaiah, we read that the prophet Isaiah said there would be someone who would prepare the way for the savior. This person would be known before Jesus was known and would preach for people to repent because the Savior of the world was coming soon. He was called "John the Baptist" because he was baptizing people to show that they had repented. (Repent means to change your mind about the way that you are living and start doing the right things.)

One day, John was talking to anyone who would listen. Suddenly, he saw Jesus coming toward him. He said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

He had never met Jesus, but the Holy Spirit told him that the person coming toward him was Jesus. He told the people that Jesus would baptize them too, but with the Holy Spirit, not water.

One day, when Jesus was walking alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." Right away, they left what they were doing and followed Jesus.

Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were also fishermen. He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Another day when Jesus was in Galilee, he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Simon. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the Christ! It is Jesus of Nazareth."

Nathanael did not believe Philip because he knew that the prophet Micah had said the Savior would be born in Bethlehem. He did not understand that though Jesus was born in Bethlehem, he was not from there. He was from Nazareth. Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Note to teachers: At this time, it was customary for men to ask a Rabbi if they could be his disciple or follower. Jesus was asking them. This was unusual and people probably took notice. Zebedee may have been excited for his sons to be included in those that Jesus was asking to follow him.

- ★ **Connection to God's Overall Story/Plan:** This story is more than the first few disciples being called by God. It also shows that God has a plan to call us. Jesus could have saved the world without human interaction, but He didn't do that. He came, He called, He continues to call... we are a part of the plan.

Follow Up:

- ★ **Retell:** Have kids share what they recall from the story. Fill in any major holes they missed.
- ★ **Examine:**
 - Comprehension Questions
 - What does it mean to be "fishers of men?"
 - How do you think the father of James and John felt when his sons left him in the boat and went to follow Jesus? Note to teachers: At this time, it was customary for men to ask a Rabbi if they could be his disciple or follower. Jesus was asking them. This was unusual and people probably took notice. Zebedee may have been excited for his sons to be included in those that Jesus was asking to follow him.
 - What does it mean to have "No deceit?"
 - Ask, "What do we learn about God from this story? What does He do?"
 - He sees us. He knows our names. He calls us to be on mission with Him.
 - Ask, "What do we learn about humans from this story? What are humans doing?"
 - We have the choice to respond yes when Jesus calls us.

★ **Application:** Ask, “What is Jesus asking us to do through this story? Why did God include this in the Bible?” Jesus is asking us to follow and to share the Gospel with others (be fishers of men)

★ **Prayer**

Memory Verse Practice:

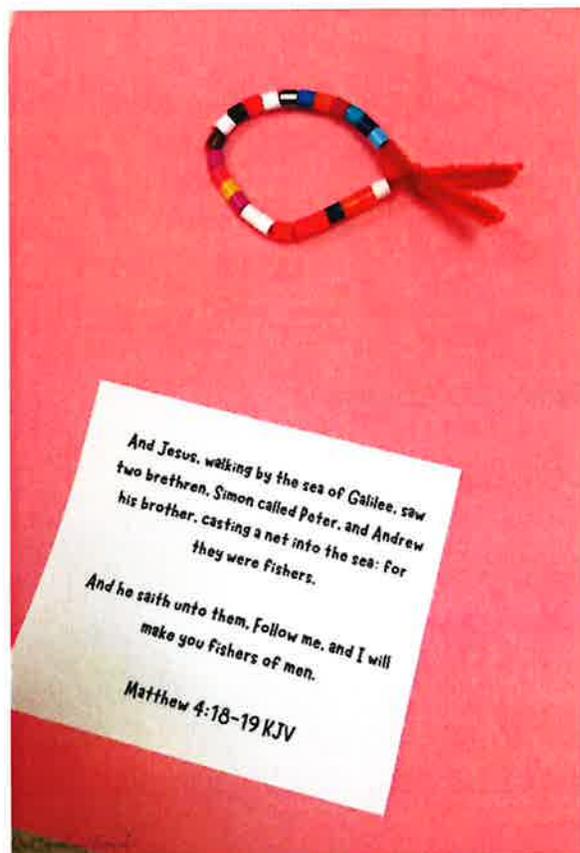
★ **Verse: Mark 1:17 (CSB)** *“Follow me,”* Jesus told them, *“and I will make you fish for people.”*

Sticky Activities:

★ Activity/Coloring pages

★ Crafts:

- Spinner wheel (full size or mini size)
- Put beads on a pipecleaner and staple to the paper in the shape of a fish.



○

ACTIVE & MOVEMENT GAMES

1. "Follow Me" Movement Game

- Leader says: "Jesus says... follow me!"
- Kids copy movements (walking, reaching, pretending to fish, dropping nets).
- Add call-and-response:
Leader: "Who do we follow?"
Kids: "Jesus!"

Adaptation: Kids can stay seated and use arm motions.

2. Drop the Nets Game

- Each child holds a scarf, yarn, or ribbon ("net").
 - When you say "Follow Me!" kids drop it and walk toward a Jesus picture.
 - Reinforces obedience + listening.
-

3. Fisher's Boat Obstacle Course

- Step on "boats" (paper plates)
 - Crawl through "nets" (laundry baskets, tunnels)
 - Carry a fish to the basket
-

CRAFTS

1. Paper Plate Fishing Net

Materials: paper plate, yarn, hole punch, fish cutouts

- Punch holes around plate
- Lace yarn across to form a net
- Tape or tie fish inside

Phrase to repeat: “Jesus said, ‘Follow Me!’”

2. Handprint Fish Craft

- Handprint = fish body
 - Write: “I will follow Jesus” or “Fishers of people”
 - Great keepsake for families
-

3. Boat Craft (Very Simple)

- Pre-cut boat shape + disciples stickers or drawings
 - Add cotton ball clouds or tissue paper water
 - Label: “Jesus calls His friends”
-

4. Net Weaving (Fine Motor)

- Use cardboard frames with slits
 - Weave yarn or ribbon back and forth
 - Add paper fish with names of kids
-

SENSORY ACTIVITIES

1. Fishing Sensory Bin

Fill with: blue water beads, shredded paper, sand, or rice

Add: toy fish, scoops, strainers, nets

- Kids “fish” while teacher tells the story

Language prompts:

“Jesus saw the fishermen.”

“Jesus said, ‘Follow Me!’”

2. Texture Fish Matching

- Smooth foil fish
 - Bumpy bubble wrap fish
 - Soft felt fish
- Kids match textures or sort by feel.
-

3. Wash the Nets

- Yarn or mesh nets in tubs of water
 - Squeeze, scrub, wring
 - Great calming sensory input
-

4. Play-Doh Fish & Nets

- Make fish, nets, and people
-

1. Fishing for Disciples

- Paper fish with disciples' names or pictures
 - Magnet fishing poles
 - Say: "Jesus called ____."
-

2. Follow the Footprints

- Tape footprints around the room
End at Jesus picture
 - Say together: "I follow Jesus!"
-

2. Coloring & Tracing

- Boat, fish, net, Jesus
 - Trace: "Follow Me"
-

3. Sensory Bottle

- Blue water + glitter + fish confetti
 - Shake while listening to the story
-

Hands like binoculars: "Jesus sees me."

Hands open: "Jesus calls me."

Feet marching: "I will follow Jesus."

Send Home Page: See attached



Jesus called them.
What did they do?

Begin at the (1). Follow the arrows to the (S). Read the answer.

T	E	I	R	A
F	T	H	T	F
E	Y	H	N	D
L	E	E	F	A
H	I	R	T	O
(1) N	A	O	L	
T	O	W	L	S
B	H	E	E	U
E	D	J	L	(S)

(1) H E Y L E E T
 ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑
 I N E L R
 ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
 F A T H E R I N
 ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
 T H E A D A P T
 ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
 A A A
 ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
 F O L L O W E D
 ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
 J E S U S
 ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

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Children's Worship Bulletin

Ages 7+ January 11, 2026 • Mark 1:14-20

The Calling of the First Disciples

Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee. He found 2 brothers casting their fishing net into the lake. Who were they? (Hint: One brother had 2 names.)

Circle the letters that appear 4 or more times. Then unscramble the remaining letters to find out.



A N D R E W and S I M O N
P E T E R

What did Jesus say?

Use this code to fit in the blanks.

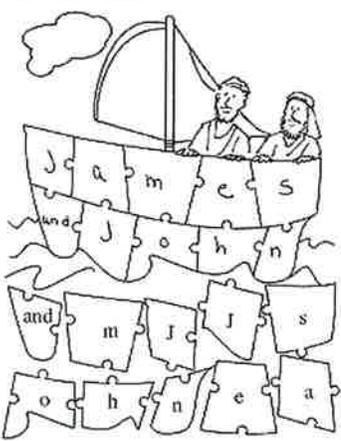
A	H	N	W
C	I	O	X
D	K	R	Y
E	L	S	Z
F	M	U	

C O M E
 F O L L O W
 M E A N D
 I W I L L
 M A K E Y O U
 F I S H E R S
 O F M E N

Mark 1:17

Jesus walked a little farther. He saw 2 sons of Zebedee. What were their names?

Fit the pieces in the puzzle to find their names



Today's lesson was on

Jesus Calls the First Disciples / Mark

1:16-21, John 1:29-51

Memory Verse:

- Mark 1:17 (CSB) "Follow me," Jesus told them, "and I will make you fish for people."
- Bonus: Names of the 12 Disciples: Simon Peter, Andrew, James (son of Zebedee), John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus (also called Judas, son of James), Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot

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**Link to New Testament
Books Song**



**Link to New Testament
Books Song**



**Link to New Testament
Books Song**



**Link to New Testament
Books Song**

Memory Verse:

Mark 1:17 (CSB)

**“Follow me,” Jesus told
them, “and I will make
you fish for people.”**

Fill in the Blanks

Mark 1:17 (CSB)

“ _____ me,” _____ told
them, “and I will _____ you
fish for _____.”

Draw this verse!



Fill in the Blanks

Mark 1:17 (CSB)

“ _____ me,” _____ told
them, “and I will _____ you
fish for _____.”

Draw this verse!



Instructions:

1. Color and cut out both wheels.
2. Hole punch the center black circle on the title wheel (page 1) and use a pencil to poke a small hole through the center black circle for the bottom wheel (page 2).
3. Place the wheel with the title on top of the other wheel and attach the wheel together with a brass paper fastener.
4. Turn the wheel and read the Bible story together.



The 12 Disciples



Instructions:

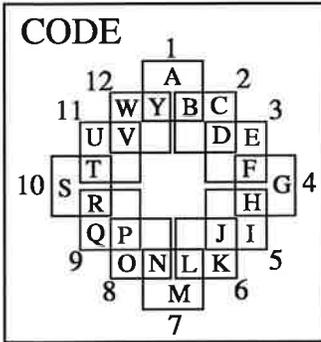
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The 12 Disciples



John the Baptist was standing with 2 of his disciples.
He saw Jesus and said,



“ _____ , _____ !”
6,7 8 8 6 10,11 4,5 3 6,7 1 7 1,2 8 3,4
4 8 2,3

Andrew and the other disciple _____ Jesus.
3,4 8 6,7 6,7 8 12 3 2,3

Andrew _____ his brother Simon and told him, “ _____ ”
3,4 8 11 7,8 2,3 12 3

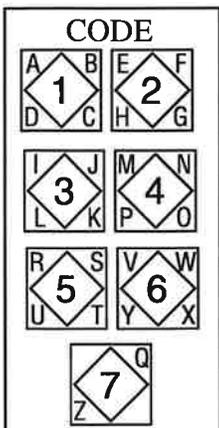
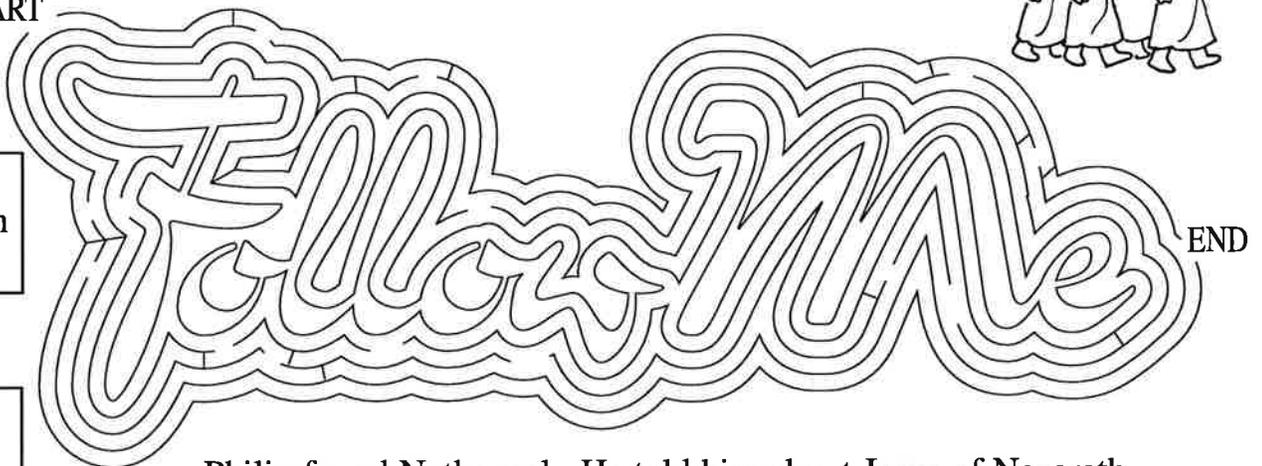
He _____ Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked at Simon and said, “ _____ ”
4,5 1 11,12 3 3,4 8 11 7,8 2,3 10,11 4,5 3 7 3 10 10 5 1 4,5
10,11 8 8 6 1,12 8 11

12 5 6,7 6,7 1,2 3 2 1 6,7 6,7 3 2,3 8,9 3 10,11 3 9,10



START

Find your way through the maze.



Philip found Nathanael. He told him about Jesus of Nazareth.
Nathanael thought that nothing good could come from Nazareth.

Philip said, “ _____ ”
1 4 4 2 1 4 1 5 2 2

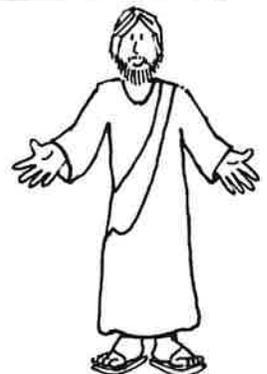
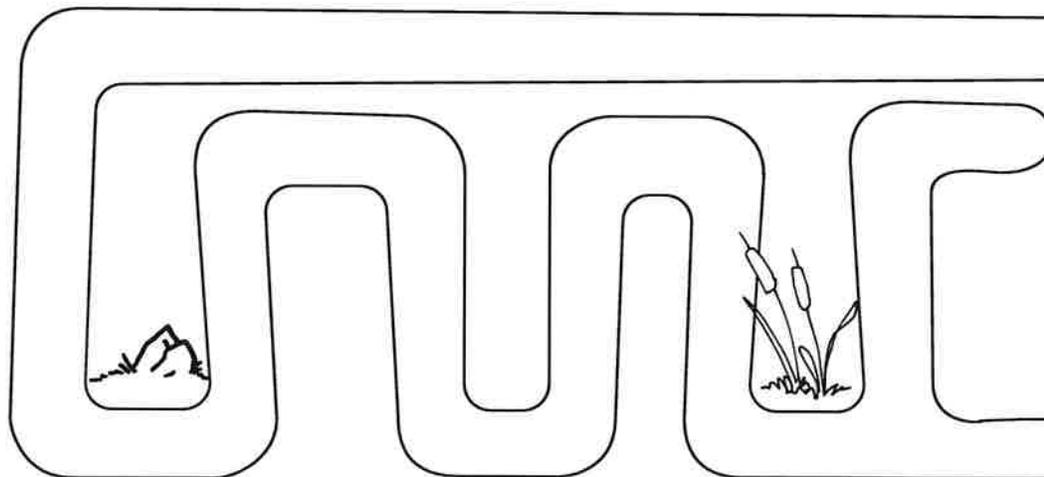
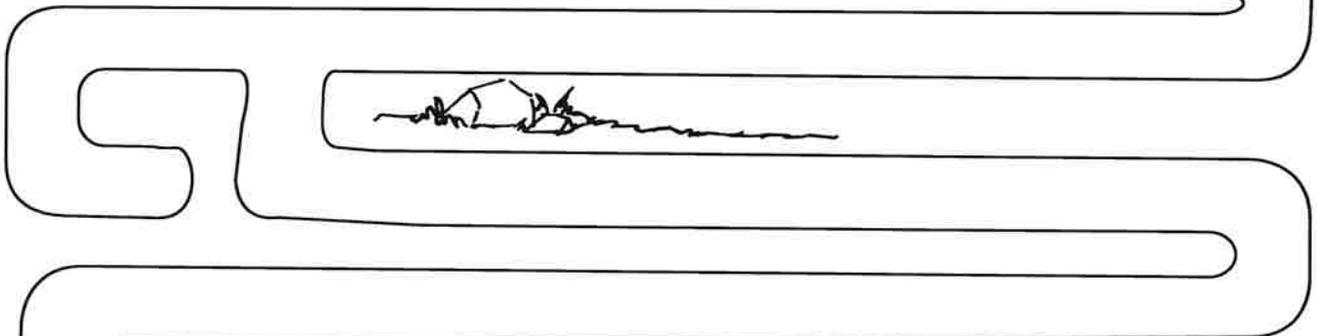
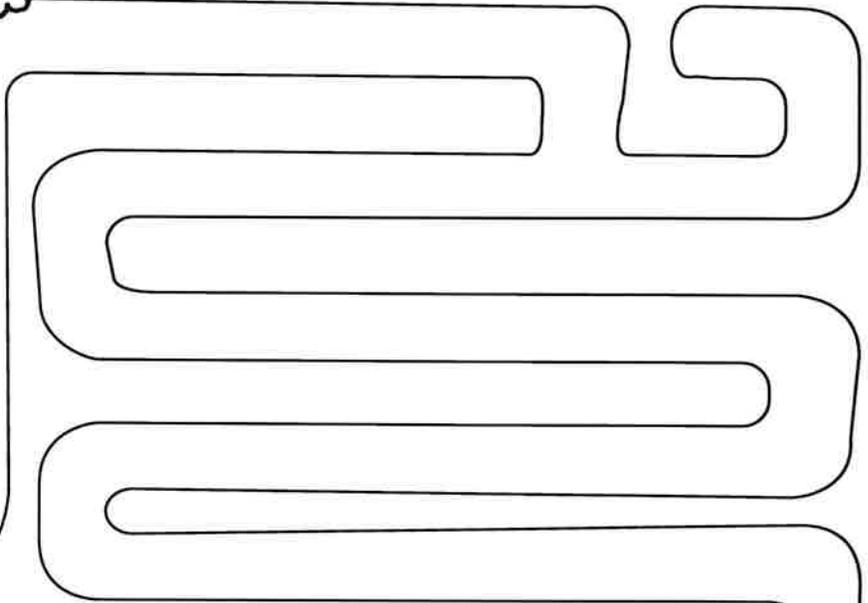
Nathanael went with Philip.

When he met Jesus, _____ !
2 2 1 2 3 3 2 6 2 1

Name _____

Jesus chose several men to become special teachers of God's Word.

Help these 4 men find Jesus.



Name _____

THE CALL OF ANDREW, PETER, PHILIP AND NATHANAEAL

New Testament Lesson #12

The leaders of the Jews asked John the Baptist if he were the Christ, and John responded that he was not (John 1:20). The next day, John saw Jesus returning from the wilderness and told his disciples, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). John's disciples had been waiting for this, so they listened to him.

The following day, John the Baptist was standing with two of his disciples, Andrew and one other. He pointed Jesus out again as "the Lamb of God," so Andrew and the other disciple followed Jesus. When Jesus saw them following him, he asked what they wanted. They asked where he was staying, and he invited them to spend the day with him.

Then Andrew brought his brother Simon to meet Jesus. When Jesus saw him, he said Simon's name would be changed to Cephas (SEE-fus), which, when translated, is Peter ("a rock").

The next day, Jesus set out for Galilee. When he found Philip, he told him, "Follow me." Philip was excited. He found his friend Nathanael (na-THAN-a-el) and told him about Jesus of Nazareth.

Nathanael's response was, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"

Philip told him to come and see.

Nathanael went. As he was approaching Jesus, Jesus said, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." This amazed Nathanael, and he responded, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

Jesus replied that Nathanael would see even greater things than this. He would "see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- "The angels of God ascending and descending ..." is an echo of Genesis 28:12-15, where God gave Jacob the promises he had given to his father.
- Nathanael is commonly believed to be the apostle also called Bartholomew (bar-THOL-o-mu) in the other gospels. He is mentioned only in John's gospel, and Bartholomew is mentioned only in the other three gospels.

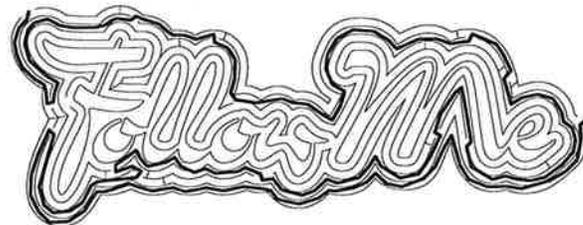
The Call of Andrew, Peter, Philip and Nathanael

- I. John the Baptist pointed Jesus out to his disciples.
 - A. John called Jesus "the Lamb of God."
 - B. Andrew and John asked Jesus where he was staying.
 - C. Jesus invited them to spend the day with him.
- II. Jesus acquired three more disciples.
 - A. Andrew introduced Simon to Jesus, and Jesus gave Simon a new name.
 - B. Jesus asked Philip to follow him, and he agreed.
 - C. Philip told Nathanael about Jesus.
 - D. Nathanael wondered if anything good could come from Nazareth.
 - E. Jesus welcomed Nathanael and promised him that he would see even greater things.

ANSWER KEY:

"Look, the Lamb of God!"

Andrew and the other disciple followed Jesus. Andrew found his brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah." He took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked at Simon and said, "You will be called Peter."



Philip said, "Come and see." Nathanael went with Philip. When he met Jesus, he believed!

Jesus also called James and John and ...

Match words in the list to the shape.
Write the word inside the shape.

Him they followed

they
followed
Him.



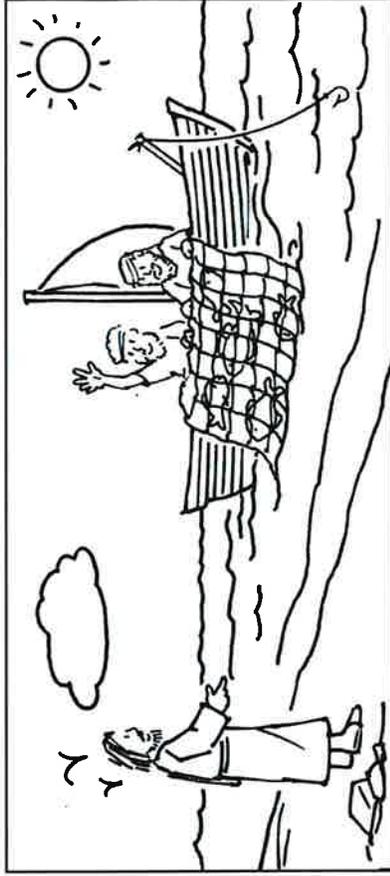
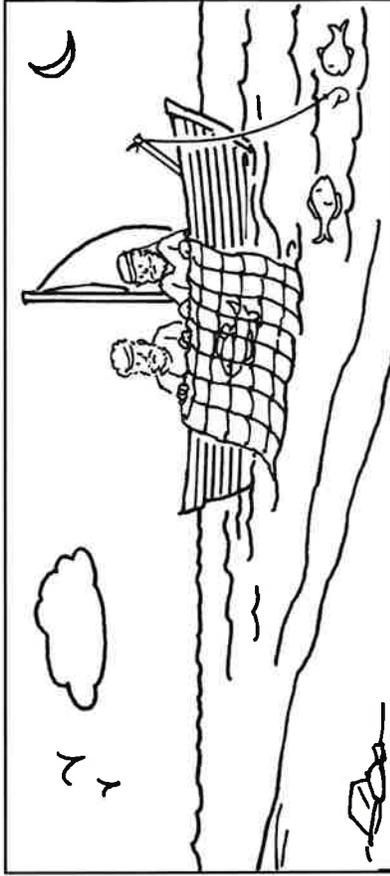
Ages 3+

January 11, 2026 • Mark 1:14-20

The Calling of the First Disciples

Jesus saw 2 men fishing.

Circle 5 things that are different in the 2nd picture.

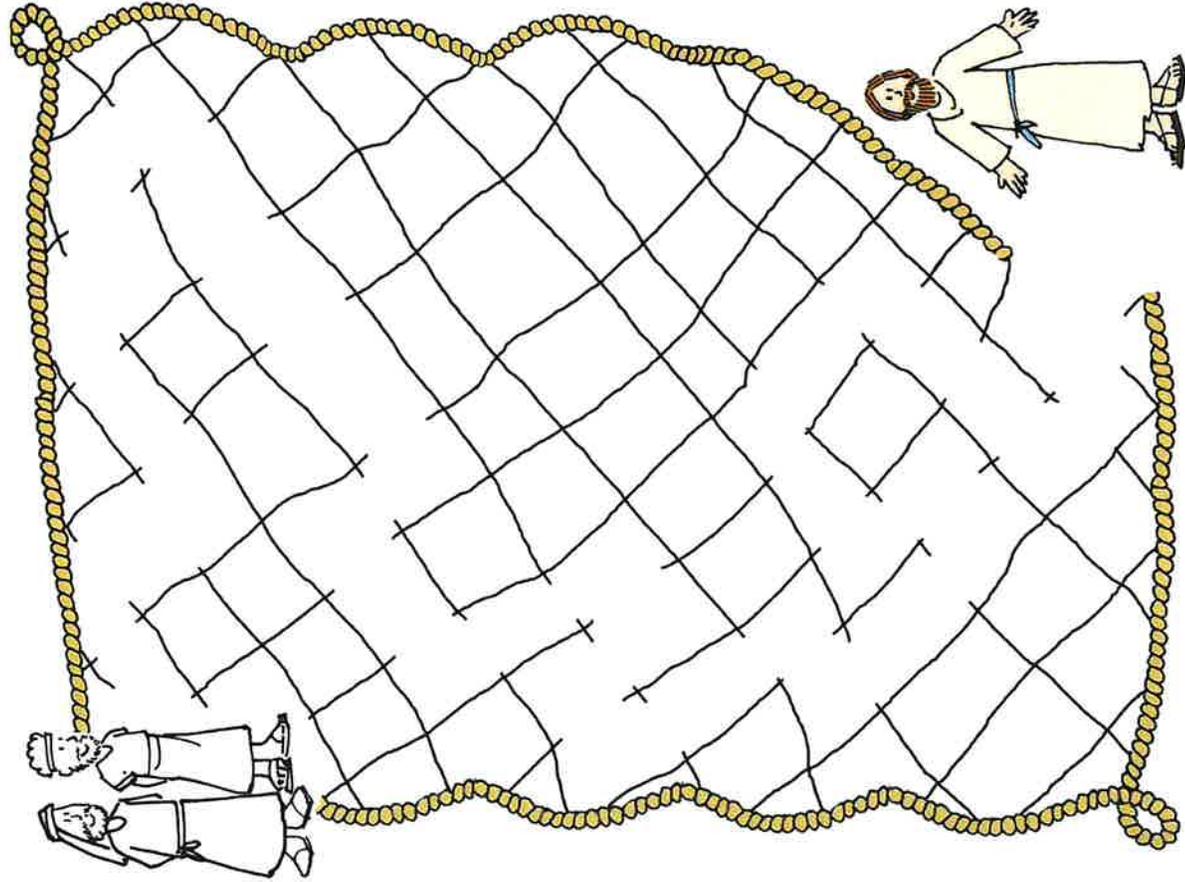


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Jesus called to Simon and Andrew,
"Come, follow Me."

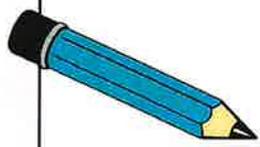
Help them get through the net to Jesus.



Jesus found James and John.
Where were they?

Connect the dots.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



8

7

6

5

4

9

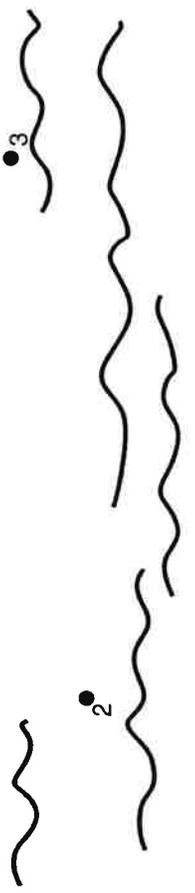
12

10

11

3

2





Jesus called them.
What did they do?

Begin at the **T**. Follow the arrows to the **S**. Read the answer.

T \uparrow \nearrow \uparrow \swarrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow

\searrow \rightarrow \nwarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow

\rightarrow \swarrow \swarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \leftarrow \downarrow

\swarrow \searrow \swarrow \uparrow \nearrow \nearrow \nearrow \nearrow

\nearrow \nwarrow \rightarrow

\swarrow \rightarrow \downarrow \swarrow \uparrow \swarrow \downarrow \swarrow

\rightarrow \nearrow \nearrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow **S** \downarrow

T	E	I	R	A
F	T	H	T	F
E	Y	H	N	D
L	E	E	F	A
H	I	R	T	O
T	N	A	O	L
T	O	W	L	S
B	H	E	E	U
E	D	J	L	S

Children's Worship Bulletin

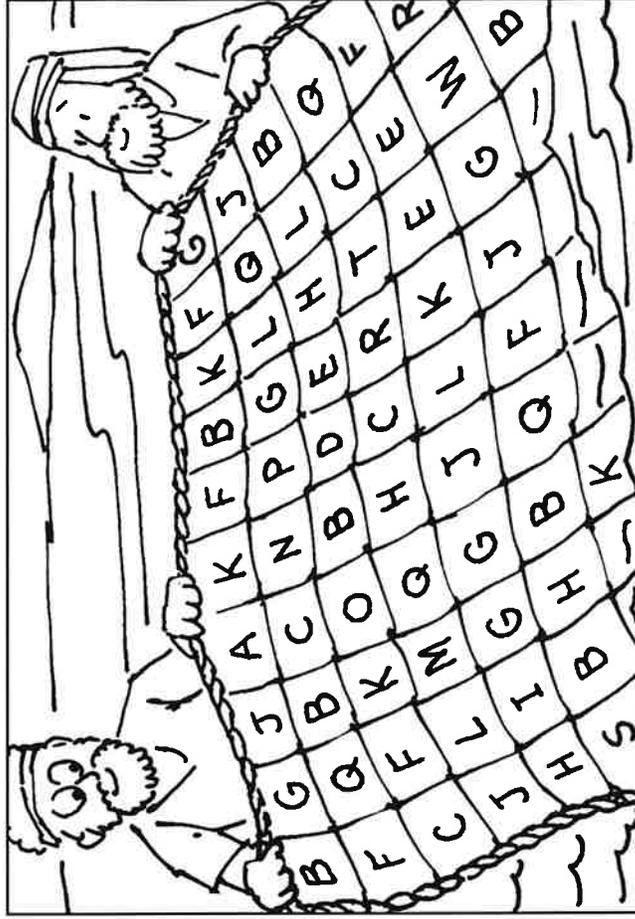
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January 11, 2026 • Mark 1:14-20

The Calling of the First Disciples

Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee. He found 2 brothers casting their fishing net into the lake. Who were they? (Hint: One brother had 2 names.)

Cross out the letters that appear 4 or more times.
Then unscramble the remaining letters to find out.



_____ and _____
_____ N _____

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Matthew 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20; Luke 5:1–11; John 1:40–42

Jesus Says, "Follow Me"

Jesus Says, "Follow Me"

Matthew 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20;

Luke 5:1–11; John 1:40–42

Peter and Andrew liked to fish. They went fishing every day. Fishing was how they earned money.

One day Jesus went to the Sea of Galilee where they were fishing. Many people wanted to hear Jesus teach. The people kept crowding around Him, trying to get closer. Jesus got into Peter and Andrew's boat. Then Jesus sat down and taught all the people who were crowded on the beach.

When Jesus finished talking to the people, Jesus told Peter to take the boat out into deeper water. Then Jesus told Peter to let down his nets to catch some fish.

When Peter and Andrew let down the nets, they caught so many fish that the nets began to break! Peter and Andrew called to their partners in another boat to come and help them. There were so many fish that when they pulled the nets with the fish into the boats, the boats began to sink. Quickly the men rowed to shore.

Jesus said, "From now on you will catch people." Jesus meant that Peter and Andrew would tell lots of people the good news about Jesus. Peter and Andrew and their partners pulled their boats up on the beach, left everything, and followed Jesus.