

## Children and families talk for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023

Hello everyone!

Last week we looked at how Jesus met Simon Peter and Andrew after he was baptised by John the Baptist. Today we look at a different bible passage where Jesus meets the two brothers at the seaside where they are mending their nets.

### **Matthew 4: 12-23**

<sup>12</sup> Jesus heard that John had been put in prison. So Jesus went back to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and went and lived in Capernaum, a town near Lake Galilee. Capernaum is in the area near Zebulun and Naphtali. <sup>14</sup> Jesus did this to make true what the prophet Isaiah said:

<sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali  
are on the way to the sea.

They are along the Jordan River.

This is Galilee where the non-Jewish people live.

<sup>16</sup> These people who live in darkness  
will see a great light.

They live in a place that is very dark.

But a light will shine on them.” *Isaiah 9:1-2*

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Change your hearts and lives, because the kingdom of heaven is coming soon.”

<sup>18</sup> Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee. He saw two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and Simon’s brother Andrew. The brothers were fishermen, and they were fishing in the lake with a net. <sup>19</sup> Jesus said, “Come follow me. I will make you fishermen for men.” <sup>20</sup> At once Simon and Andrew left their nets and followed him.

<sup>21</sup> Jesus continued walking by Lake Galilee. He saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets to catch fish. Jesus told them to come with him. <sup>22</sup> At once they left the boat and their father, and they followed Jesus.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went everywhere in Galilee. He taught in the synagogues and preached the Good News about the kingdom of heaven. And he healed all the people’s diseases and sicknesses.

Let’s talk about our bible reading:

Here I have a plain piece of card, which is not very interesting is it? But I’m going to transform it into something useful – see if you can work out what it is as I cut it out.

In our bible reading today, Jesus met up with Simon and Andrew, James and John, and asked them to go with him, to follow him. And they did. They made a decision to leave their

old life as fishermen behind them to become followers of Jesus and learn from him. I don't think this can have been an easy decision to make, as they will have heard about John the Baptist being arrested by the ruler Herod, for what he was telling people about Jesus. But Simon Peter had seen Jesus healing people, in fact in Luke chapter 4, we are told that Jesus had healed Simon Peter's mother in law.

These new disciples of Jesus were the first people to decide to change the way they lived and start a new life following Jesus.

Now, can you see what I have made from the plain piece of card, now it will be very useful as part of a sign on our notice board at church, I still have some work to do though to finish it.

It's not easy to change the things you do and decide to follow Jesus – but its not something we have to do on our own. We can ask God to help us to change. What are the things in your life that you might need to change? Perhaps you could ask God to help you?

Let's talk to God now:

Faithful God, you know that we sometimes mess things up.  
Sometimes we are not kind to those we meet,  
sometimes we get angry.  
Sometimes we want to do our own thing instead of listening.  
Forgive us, and help us, now and every day.

**Amen.**

Loving Jesus, we hear you loud and clear,  
we thank you for your call.  
Help us to always follow you, in all we think and say and do.  
We praise and thank you here today, for all your gifts to us.

**Amen.**

**And let's say the grace together:**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
The love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
Be with us all, now and forever more,

Amen.

Here is the children's activity page from Roots: [activity-sheet-22-january-2023.pdf](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/activity-sheet-22-january-2023.pdf)  
([rootsontheweb.com](https://www.rootsontheweb.com))