

Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

Read Matthew 4.17-22.

- What did Jesus call Peter, John, and their brothers to do?
- How did they respond to his invitation?

Read Luke 5:1-11. Luke’s account of the same story includes some additional detail.

- According to vs. 4-5, why did Simon take the boat back out?
- Why did Simon respond to the miraculous catch the way he did in vs 8-9?

Marks of Jesus’ Disciples

Jesus’ original followers were not known as Christians. The term “Christian” didn’t emerge until several years after Jesus’ death and resurrection (Acts 11:25-26). Rather, Jesus’ growing band of followers were called his “disciples.” For nearly three years, Jesus taught people how citizens of God’s kingdom should live. He defined for them, by his example and in his teaching, what should distinguish his followers in this world.

Look at the following passages and fill in the chart below.

Passage	In a few words, what sets Jesus’ disciples apart?	Why do you think this is important?
Luke 18:15-17		
Matthew 16.24-25		
John 8.31-32		
John 13.34-35		

Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

Look again at Matthew 4:17-22 and Luke 5:1-11.

- **Explore the Metaphor.** In Matt 4:19 and in Luke 5:10 Jesus said to the fisherman “I will make you fishers of men.” What do you think it would mean to a fisherman to be told to “fish for men”?
- Put yourself on the boat the day of that miraculous catch 2000 plus years ago. What do you think the disciples learned about their role in “fishing for men”, and what did they learn about Jesus’ role?
- Pick one or two “marks of a disciple” on the previous page. How do these help them fish for men?
- What did these four men have to leave behind in order to follow Jesus? Why do you think they had to leave them?

Making it Count

How do I live what I’ve learned?

- Jesus’ first disciples had to leave some things in order to follow Him. What will you personally have to leave behind in order to follow Christ?
- Which of the “Marks of a Disciple” on the previous page would you say you most strongly exhibit in your life?
- Which one of Jesus’ criteria for being His disciple is most challenging to you? With God’s help, what is a practical step you can take to become more Christ-like in this area?
- In 1st Corinthians 11:1, Paul urges his audience “to follow my example as I follow the example of Christ.” As Christians it is important for us to have mentors that can help us follow Christ. What would it look like for you to put this principle into practice?