

"Come Follow Me!"

Key Verse:
"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Me."

Luke 9:23

Extra: How do we 'learn from Jesus' today?

Level 3 lesson 25

Read Matthew 4:18-22 and Matthew 16:24-28

DON'T JUST SIT THERE!

The Lord Jesus Christ is calling you to DO something. When He was here on earth, He called people to FOLLOW Him and LEARN from Him. He's still calling today ...

AN INVITATION

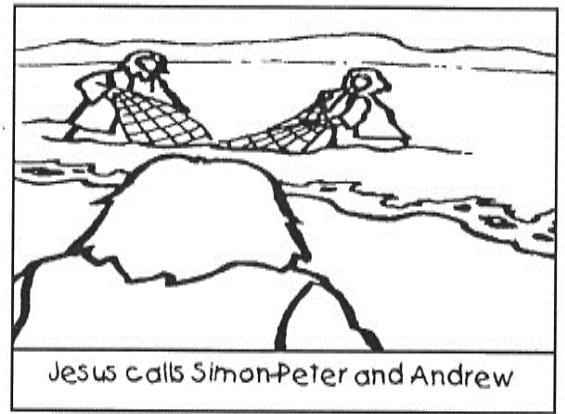
Do you like receiving an invitation? Whether to a friend's house to play, or to a birthday party, or something else special - they're always exciting! So imagine an invitation from the Lord Jesus Himself. Well, that's what happened one day, to Simon-Peter and his brother Andrew.

These two brothers were fishing with their nets, when Jesus walked by. He called out to them, "Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Now, Simon Peter and Andrew weren't just fishing for fun - it was their work! The young men would catch fish and sell them at the market. It was the way their families made enough money to live.

The amazing thing is, Simon Peter and Andrew left their nets and followed Jesus! The Lord Jesus is calling us to follow Him, too. But what does it mean to 'Follow Jesus?'

LEAVING THE OLD LIFE

Jesus wants us to turn away from a sinful life (which is lived without Him), and live a new life with Him in charge. Simon Peter and Andrew left their old way of living and started on a new life, spending time with Jesus and getting to know



him. The same thing happened with James and John, the sons of Zebedee. Jesus now calls us to do the same.

In the further reading Jesus also told His followers that they must 'deny themselves.' This means they had to stop putting themselves first (as they used to in their old lives), and put Jesus first. 'Following Jesus' means leaving your old life of sin and obeying God.

LEARNING FROM HIM

The Lord Jesus told these first disciples that He would teach them to be 'fishers of men.' Jesus wanted people to be saved, and He was going to teach these brothers how to share the Good News of the gospel with others. Jesus also wanted them to learn many other things from Him: how to pray, how to be humble and gentle, how to serve God and lots of other things. So, 'following Jesus' also means learning from Him.

'COME, FOLLOW ME.'

Jesus calls **you** to follow Him, too. So will you stop living without Him and start learning from Him and obeying His teachings? Will you accept His invitation?

1. What things does the Lord Jesus call us to do?

2. List some things that we can learn from Jesus:

Help Simon Peter and Andrew follow the Lord Jesus!



My Name is Age.....

Jesus Christ: The Man of

Key Verse:
"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power."
Ephesians 6:10

Extra: List some 'life storms' that you need to trust the Lord to help you through.

Level 3 lesson 26

Read Matthew 14:22-36 and Ephesians 6:10-18

WINNING THE FIGHT

Living the Christian life is like being in a battle. The enemy is strong and the battle is long. So how can we win the fight?

AMAZING!

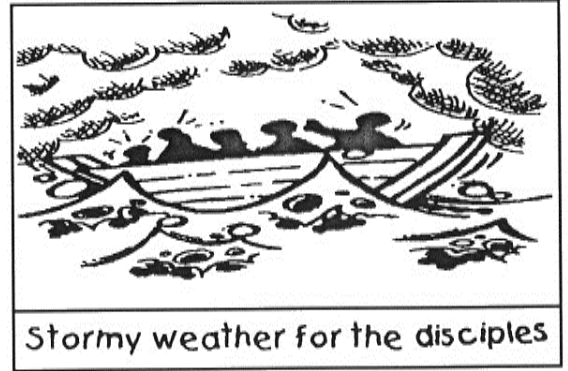
The disciples of Jesus thought they had 'seen it all.' They knew Jesus was different. He taught with authority like no-one they had ever heard. He healed sick people and cast out many demons. One day, He even fed 5,000 people with only two fish and five small loaves of bread! Even so, the disciples were still amazed at what happened next!

TERROR ON THE WAVES

After feeding the 5,000, Jesus sent the disciples across the lake in a boat while He sent the crowds home. It was getting late, and He wanted everyone to get home safely. Then He made His way up a mountain to pray.

Here's something very interesting: people who pray the most experience the power of God in their lives the most. Any time you read about the life of a successful Christian, you'll find that they made time to pray often to God. Even the Lord Jesus (who is God's Son) spent a lot of time in prayer.

Meanwhile, the sun had gone down and the disciples were still trying to make their way across the lake, but it was a struggle. The winds were strong, and huge waves were tossing the little boat about like a cork! When Jesus saw the trouble that the disciples were in, He decided to go out to them - walking on the water!



The disciples saw Him coming through the darkness and the misty spray from the crashing waves, and they were terrified! "It's a ghost!" they cried out. Jesus called out to them, "Don't be afraid - it's Me!" He got into the boat and immediately the wind died down and they arrived at the other side. Jesus showed His disciples even more of His power as He healed all the sick people that came to Him.

THE POWER OF GOD

The disciples were afraid because of the storm, but when Jesus was with them they knew they were safe because they had seen God's power at work through Him.

We've seen in the Bible what the Lord Jesus did too, so we can trust Him in the 'storms' of our life, also. The storms of life are things like anger, fear, tragedy, fighting, hatred, worry, sorrow, sickness, and many others.

As Christians, we don't have to fight these battles on our own! Ephesians 6:10 tells us to "be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power." Having seen the mighty power of the Lord Jesus, we know that we are safe and with His power we can win the fight!

Using the code A = Y B = Z C = A etc, see if you can decipher the following Bible verse:

K/ECP/FQ/GXGTRVJKPI/VJTQWIJ/
JKO/YJQ/IKXGU/OG/UVTGPIVJ



Make a list of as many things as possible that Jesus did to show His power to the disciples:

Working for the Lord

Key Verse:
"Serve wholeheartedly as if you were serving the Lord, not men."
Ephesians 6:7

Extra: Make a list of the talents that the Lord has given you.

Level 3 lesson 27

Read Matthew 25:14-30

WHO'S THE BOSS?

Have you ever felt tired of working hard at being good? "What's the point?" you might ask. Well, the Bible gives us some great reasons why doing good is the very best thing we can do.

SPENDING TIME

We all know how to spend money. We can spend it wisely or blow it all on nothing! We can use money to do good things and help others, or we can selfishly spend it all on ourselves. In some ways, time is just like money! You can use your time wisely, or waste it all doing nothing. You can use it to do good things, or bad! You can use your time to help others, or you can be selfish by looking after 'Number One!' In fact, this is true about a lot of things, not just time. For example, God has given all of us special gifts, and abilities. We can use them for good, or for bad. We can even just neglect to use them at all and let them go to waste!

WORKING WELL

In our passage today, Jesus tells a story about a wealthy man who went on a journey, leaving his servants with different amounts of money to look after and do things with. When the man came back, two of the servants had invested the money they had been given, and made more money for their master. Now the third servant, he had just been lazy! He just buried the money in his back yard and



waited for his master to come back! The master praised the first two servants by calling them "good and faithful," but punished the unfaithful servant for his laziness.

BEING A "GOOD SERVANT"

Jesus told that story because He is like the master who went away, and we are like the servants left behind to do something good with the time and gifts He has given us. Sometimes, people that we do things for may not appreciate it. Jesus wants us to remember that we're not really doing it for them (our parents, teachers, friends or employers) but we're doing it firstly, to please Him!

How much easier it is to work at doing good when we know that we're working for God, and that if we stick at it, we will one day hear Him call us a "good and faithful servant"!

Other people may forget how hard we work and the good that we've done, but the Lord Jesus never forgets! Because it's Him we serve, we know that one day He will reward us! (Read Colossians 3:23-24)

1. Why did the Lord give each of us talents and abilities?

TRUE OR FALSE?

Circle the correct letter to show which things are true and which are false!

1. We should waste our time. T F
2. God wants us to do good for others. T F
3. The Lord has given talents to us all. T F
4. We should keep them to ourselves. T F

2. Who will be rewarded when the Lord returns?

He's Coming Back!

Key Verse:
"Continue in Him, so that when He appears we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming."

1 John 2:28

Extra: If Jesus came back now, would you be happy to see Him? Why or why not?

Level 3 lesson 28

Read Acts 1:1-11 and Revelation 1:7

GOOD NEWS

Jesus has promised us that one day He is coming back to earth. Some people will welcome Him back joyfully, but others will try to hide from Him!

"I CAN'T WAIT!"

There are a lot of things that we look forward to - Christmas, going on holiday, birthdays, etc - things that just about have us bursting with excitement! But there are also things we don't look forward to, like visits to the dentist, the end of a good book, or finishing an ice-cream! Our reading today tells us about something that everyone in the whole world (in fact, everyone that has ever lived!) will either be excited about or terrified of - and that's when the Lord Jesus comes back to earth!

HE'S COMING BACK!

Not too long after the first Easter (when the Lord Jesus had risen from the dead), He sent a message to the disciples telling them to meet Him at a nearby mountain. They arrived, and were very happy to see Him. After He had given them some very important instructions, He rose up into the sky in front of their very eyes, and finally disappeared into a cloud! As the disciples stood there hardly able to believe what they had just seen, some angels came and told them, "Why are you standing there gazing up into heaven? Jesus will come again, in just the same way as you have just seen Him leave!"



Isn't that great? Jesus will come again in the clouds so that the whole world can see Him! The disciples were filled with joy at the thought, and today, every Christian should look forward to His coming with joy and eagerness, too. The Bible makes it quite clear though, that not everyone will be happy to see the Lord. In fact, some people will be so terrified that they'll want to hide. Revelation 1:7 says that "many will mourn." Why would anyone be sad or afraid when Jesus comes back?

SIN AND FEAR

Some people will fear the Lord's return because all their lives they have sinned against God and refused to turn to Him for forgiveness. When Jesus first came to earth, it was as a little baby, born to die on the cross for the sins of the whole world. When He comes back, it will be to take all those who have believed in Him back to Heaven, to be with Him forever. For those left behind though, Jesus will come as a Judge, to punish all those who have rejected or ignored Him. Do you know how you can make sure that you'll be glad to see the Lord Jesus when He returns? Ask Him to forgive you, for all your sins, and trust Him as your Saviour NOW! Make up your mind now to follow Him all your life, and then when He comes, you'll be full of joy!

1. What did the angels tell the disciples?

2. Why will some people be afraid when Jesus comes back?

Draw the Lord Jesus coming again on this cloud!

