

# The First Disciples

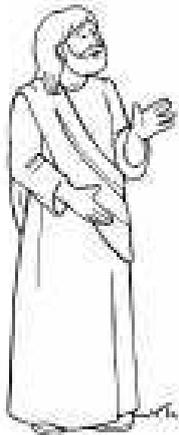
Jesus chose twelve disciples. He found the first two with John the Baptist. They left John and followed Jesus. One of them was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. Peter also became one of Jesus' disciples. Jesus called Philip from Bethsaida to follow him. Then Philip told Nathanael about Jesus, and Nathanael followed Jesus, too. Jesus called Matthew the tax collector, and he too followed him. Eventually Jesus chose twelve disciples. He called each of them in a different way.



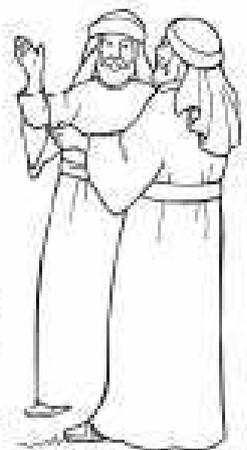
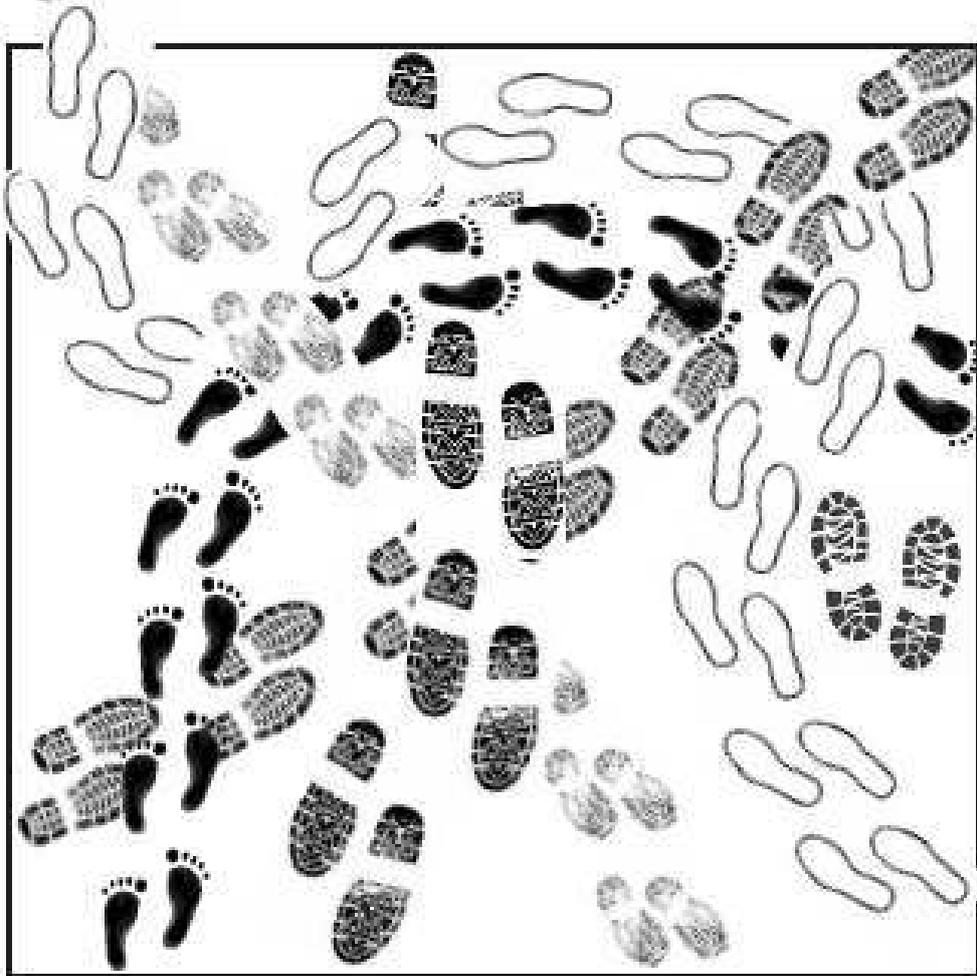
“Come, follow me, Jesus said, and I will make you fishers of men.’ At once they left their nets and followed him.”

Matthew 4:19-20

How did the first disciples answer Jesus' call?



**The disciples followed Jesus.  
Draw a line and show the way they went.**



## Lesson 9 The First Disciples

**Bible text:** Mark 3:16-19; Luke 9:1-6.

**Key verse:** Matthew 4:19-20.

**Purpose:** The children will find out that Jesus' disciples must be obedient to Him.

### **Please note!**

Plan suitable activities for your group of children. The following activities can be adapted depending on the group's size, age, ability, the amount of time available, etc.

### **I. Lesson**

Before working on the coloring activity page, tell the children about the first disciples by using questions and answers.

**Q.** What does "disciple" mean?

**A.** Disciple means student, follower.

**Q.** Where did Jesus find his first disciples and why did they follow him?

**A.** In different places. The Lord Jesus doesn't care about the way people look or about a person's social position. He loves all the people and wants them to follow Him. Jesus' first disciples are examples of this:

– Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was with John the Baptist. (John 1:35-51)

– Zebedee's sons, James and John, were found by Jesus, as they were sitting in a boat with their father mending their nets. They followed Jesus when he called them. (Matthew 4:21-22)

– The tax-collector Matthew was found at his tax-collection booth. When Jesus said to him: "Come follow me!" he immediately got up and followed Jesus. (Mark 2:13-17)

**Q.** What are the names of the first twelve disciples?

**A.** Mark 3:16-19

**Q.** What does the Lord Jesus want from his disciples?

**A.** He wants them to follow him and to tell others about him, as did Andrew and his brother, Simon Peter, or Philip and Nathanael. (Luke 9:1-6).

*Suggestion: Explain what disciple means, how Jesus calls us today to be his disciple, and what Jesus expects from his disciples.*

### **II. Activities**

#### **1. Key Verse**

a. Read out loud the Bible verse.

"'Come, follow me, Jesus said, and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed him." Matthew 4:19-20

b. Explain key words:

**Come, follow me** – Jesus wants us to follow Him. He is an example to us. He wants us to obey and love him.

**And I will make you fishers of men** – Jesus will give us strength and wisdom to tell others about Him, in order for them to become his disciples, too.

**And they left their nets at once and followed him** – The ones that Jesus called left everything and followed Him. A disciple follows Jesus and gives up everything for him.

c. Help the children memorize the Bible verse.

## 2. Review questions for the children:

- Who were the first twelve disciples?
- Why did Jesus need them?
- What is the task of Jesus' disciples?
- Do you want to be one of Jesus' disciples?
- What do you have to do to be a good disciple?

## III. Conclusion

A disciple of Jesus is obedient to him and follows him. He loves others and tells them about the Savior. It is said that Jesus' disciples took the Good News to the whole world. Even though they were few, they went everywhere and told everybody about the Savior. This is how Christianity spread all over the world. Do you want to be one of Jesus' disciples?