

Wednesday

Read: **Matthew 4:18-20** *Jesus calls Peter and Andrew*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why do you think Jesus chose not to go to a city like Jerusalem to find his followers?*
2. *Jesus used language and ideas that fishermen would understand. How might Jesus reach people in our society today?*

Prayer Focus You've shown us that we don't have to be anyone but ourselves before you, our God. We see that you can do the extraordinary, even with ordinary people like us. Call us again, we pray.

Thursday

Read: **Matthew 4:21-22** *The fishermen join Jesus*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *These men gave up their jobs, incomes, and families to follow Jesus. Is there anything you need to leave behind to be a better follower of Christ?*
2. *Take time today to offer this to God. Pray for support and strength to make a change.*

Prayer Focus So much of what we cling to can never last, God. Thank you for offering us something we can never lose: your enduring love and compassion. Help us choose what you offer.

Friday

Read: **Matthew 4:23** *Jesus' ministry begins*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Did Jesus need to cure people in order to spread his message? Why?*
2. *How might you share that message this week?*

Prayer Focus The good news of new, lasting life in you is in our hearts. Be with us as we work to bring it out, God, to share it, and live it today, so everyone hears of the hope you offer.

The Call

Pastor's message: Matthew 4:12-23

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *What do you remember most about getting your first job?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Matthew 4:12-23**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)



THE CALL **January 22, 2023**

Monday

Read: Matthew 4:12-16 *Jesus fulfills the prophecy*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What is the importance of Matthew's reference to Isaiah's prophecy?*
2. *Where do you see darkness in our community? What might change with the light?*

Prayer Focus. We know the light is in you and with you, Jesus, and we're thankful that the promises of the prophets are still being fulfilled. Today we greet your light, rejoicing in the new day you offer every time we turn to you.

Tuesday

Read: Matthew 4:17 *People get ready*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Jesus echoes the words of John the Baptist. Why is repentance the first thing they ask of us?*
2. *Make list of what you believe you'll see as heaven comes near. Spend some time praying about how God might fulfill this vision.*

Prayer Focus It isn't easy to be honest about how we fall short of your hopes for us. Turn us back onto the path that you have planned for us, Teacher. Show us again that when we give our true hearts to you, you will always offer forgiveness and a loving push toward where you need us to go to bring heaven closer.