



LifeGroup Discussion Packet

“The Call to Follow Jesus”

Series: The Jesus Path

Mark 1:14-20

September 12 & 13, 2026

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Main Idea:

Following Jesus begins when we surrender the right to lead our own lives.

Key Verse:

“Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” Mark 1:17 (ESV)

This Week’s Pillar:

Surrender

Action Step:

Answer His call

Warm-Up Question

Have you ever asked for directions and then decided you knew a better way? What happened?

Discussion Questions

Read Mark 1:14-20 together before discussing. Share honestly and allow anyone to pass on a personal question.

1. In verses 14-15, Jesus announces God’s kingdom and calls people to repent and believe. How does His authority shape what it means to follow Him?
2. Jesus meets Simon and Andrew during their workday. What makes people think they need to become more qualified or get life settled before responding to Him? Where do you recognize that hesitation in yourself?
3. Read verses 18-20 again. What do the brothers leave behind? What good things, such as security, comfort, or approval, can become too important in our lives?

4. Surrender means trusting Jesus enough to obey when we would prefer another direction. Where does that become difficult for you? What would a faithful response look like?
5. In verse 17, what does Jesus ask the fishermen to do, and what does He promise to do? How does that distinction encourage you in an area where you are still growing?
6. Jesus promises to make them fishers of men. Who in your life needs the hope of Christ? How could you show care and create an opportunity to share your faith?
7. “The One asking you to trust Him is the One who gave His life for you.” How do Jesus’ death and resurrection address your fears about surrender, whether you are beginning to follow Him or have followed Him for years?

Going Deeper

Where do you need rest and support, and where do you need to stop resisting Jesus? Both may be true. How can this group help you take a faithful next step?

Next Step

Complete this sentence before you leave. “This week, I will answer Jesus’ call by _____. ”
Choose one specific action and tell someone in the group when you will take it. If you are exploring faith, share a question or ask someone to help you understand what trusting Jesus means. Close by praying for one another and for the people you hope to reach.

Did You Know?

Five biblical insights that take us deeper into Mark 1

1. One lake has several biblical names.

The Sea of Galilee in Mark 1:16 is also called the Lake of Gennesaret in Luke 5:1 and the Sea of Tiberias in John 6:1. These names identify the same body of water. Recognizing them helps us connect the Gospel accounts and picture the shared setting of Jesus’ teaching, miracles, and call to discipleship. Luke 5:1, John 6:1

2. Andrew brought his brother to Jesus.

John 1:35-42 adds a personal detail to the brothers' story. Andrew had been a disciple of John the Baptist. After spending time with Jesus, he found Simon and brought him to Jesus. Read alongside Mark's account, this reminds us that the brothers' relationship with Jesus has a wider story. It also shows how one family relationship can become an opportunity to introduce someone to Him. John 1:35-42

3. Simon Peter had a mother-in-law.

Later in the same chapter, Jesus enters the home of Simon and Andrew and heals Simon's mother-in-law. That family connection tells us Peter was married. The fisherman Jesus called had a household as well as a livelihood. The story moves from the workplace to the home, where Jesus shows care for a member of Peter's family. Mark 1:29-31

4. "Fishers of men" includes women too.

The ESV footnote explains that the Greek word translated "men" in Mark 1:17 refers here to both men and women. Jesus is speaking about reaching people. His choice of a fishing image connects their familiar occupation with a new mission. The promise reaches beyond their own transformation to the people they will help bring to Him. Mark 1:17 and ESV footnote

5. The language of a path begins before the fishermen appear.

Mark 1:2-3 introduces John the Baptist through Old Testament Scripture. Verse 3 draws from Isaiah 40:3, where a way is prepared for the Lord. In Isaiah's setting, the passage announces God's coming to His people. Mark applies this preparation to the arrival of Jesus. That connection gives the call beside the lake deeper significance. The One inviting people to follow Him stands at the center of God's promised work. Mark 1:2-3, Isaiah 40:3-5