

“Do not postpone until tomorrow what you can do today,” says an old proverb. Unfortunately, we often do the opposite, saying that there will be time enough tomorrow. God’s word, though, keeps urging us. The time to do the things of God is now. The time to change is urgent. Repent now, be converted now, God and his kingdom are here with you now. With the Lord among us here we ask him to make us listen now to his Good News and to make it come true among us now.

Opening prayer

Let us pray that we may answer
the Lord’s urgent call for conversion.

(pause)

God our Father,
you tell us through Jesus your Son
that it is more than time for us
to be converted to the Good News
which he wants us to hear and to live up to.
You alone can change us.

Give us the courage to entrust ourselves
without fear and hesitation to Jesus
and to follow him wherever he leads us,
for we are sure he will lead us to joy
and make us share his words and life
with our brothers and sisters,

Penitential

Too easily we postpone our wish
to serve God better.

We now ask the Lord to forgive us.

(pause)

Lord Jesus, you tell us
that now the time has come
to turn away from our sins:
Lord, have mercy. R/ Lord, have mercy.

Jesus Christ, you ask us
to accept fully your Good News
and to live by it:
Christ, have mercy. R/ Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you urge us
to serve you and your kingdom:
Lord, have mercy. R/ Lord, have mercy.

In your kind mercy, forgive us, Lord,
for being so slow to accept your word
and to implement it fully.
Lead us to everlasting life. R/ Amen.

Amid the drudgery of life and the struggle to survive under Roman oppression, the Jewish people must have heard hope in the teachings of John the Baptist. While mending their nets, the fishermen might have wondered about John's exhortation, "The Kingdom of God is near." To ease the pain of life's uncertainties, perhaps they shared their dreams about what it would be like living in God's kingdom. Maybe they prayed for the coming of that kingdom. In any event, they were ready and longing for an invitation the day Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee. Jesus' words filled the emptiness in their souls, melting away doubts or the ability to doubt the carpenter. Would we accept a carpenter's invitation?

The invitation to "Come after me" happens every day. Unlike the fisherman responding to the carpenter, we know a call from Jesus is a call from the Son of God. God longs for us to articulate the hopes and dreams residing in the deepest recesses of our soul and then listen for our invitation. Where might God's invitation take us?



SPIRITUALITY

FOCUS:

Why do people follow Jesus?

We can learn about this through the stories we read in the Bible.

In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

OPENING PRAYER:

O Lord, bless our home so that,
in working together
and playing together,
we may learn to serve you
and to serve one another.

Keep us safe and happy.

Amen



Before we begin today, here is a thought:

What exactly was it about Jesus that made people want to follow him when he 'called'?

Obviously, we know he is the Son of God but, back then, did they?

Especially at the beginning, when Jesus was just getting started, to the people who had just met him he must have seemed just another man at first.

To the people from his town, he was probably just 'Jesus', who they had watched grow up - Mary and Joseph's son, a carpenter who knew the Scriptures extremely well and who taught in the synagogue at times.

What kind of a man was he, though, to make people want to answer his call?

I wouldn't really want to put ideas into your heads, but I reckon –
for starters - that he was nice.

I mean, you wouldn't want to listen (or be) with someone that
wasn't nice or you didn't like, would you?

People liked him. He was kind. Clever. Wise. Sensible. Passionate
about 'good'- and about God.

**As you read the following story, think about what kind of
a personality Jesus had.**

What kind of sense was he talking that made people want to
change the way they lived their lives?

Why do you think they liked him so much?

A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (Mt 4:18 - 22)



Jesus left
Nazareth and
went to live in
Capernaum
on the shore
of Lake
Galilee.

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (later called Peter) and his brother Andrew.





They both
worked as
fishermen and
were casting a
net into the
lake.

“Come, follow
me,” Jesus
said, “and I will
send you out
to fish for
people.”





Immediately
they left
their nets and
followed
him.

Going further
along the
shore Jesus
saw two other
brothers,
James
and John.

They too were
fishermen,
working in their
boat.





James and
John were
with their father
Zebedee,
preparing their
nets.

Jesus called
them leave their
jobs to follow him.

Immediately they
both left the boat
and their father
to be with Jesus.

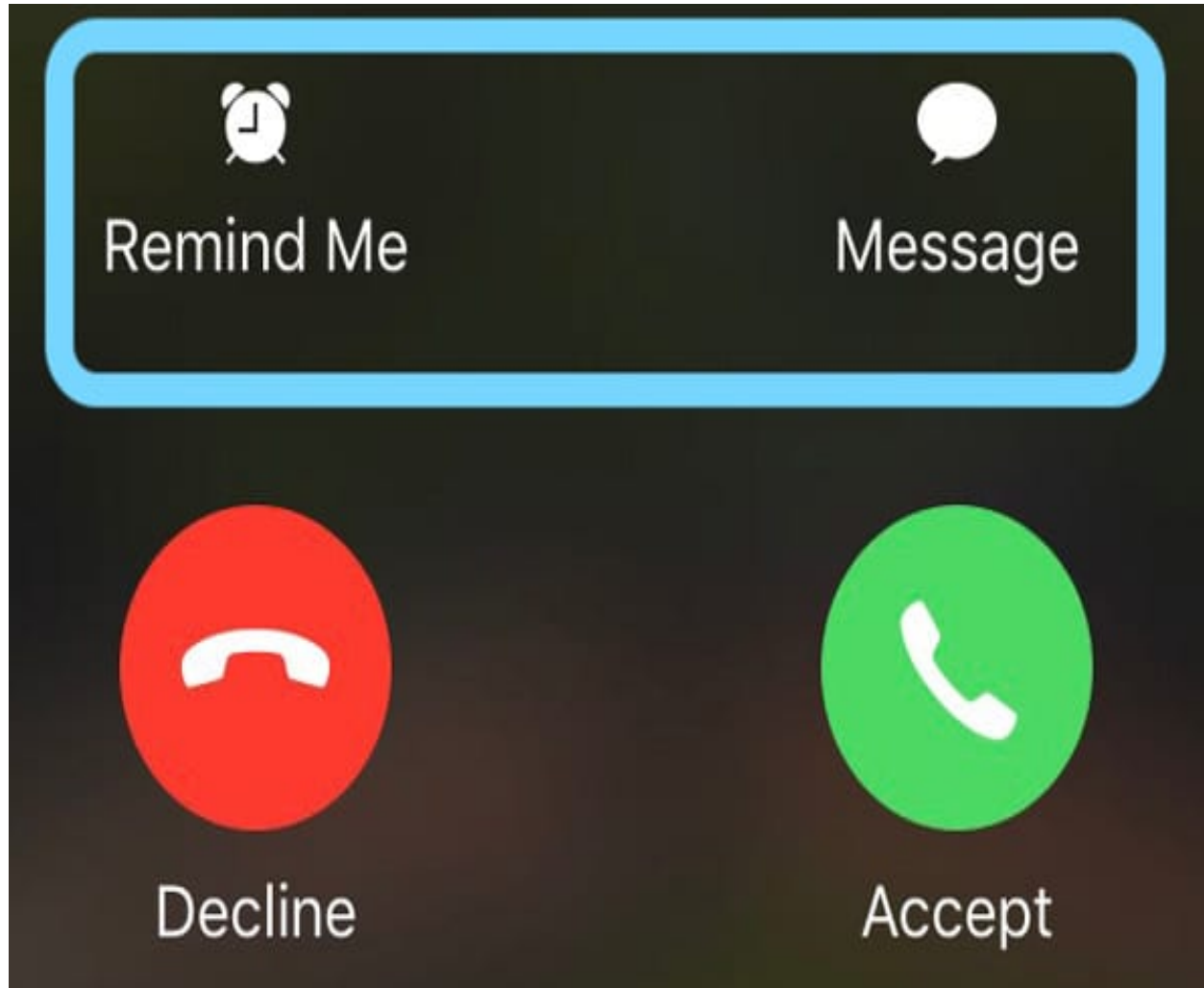




The four
fishermen
followed Jesus as
he set off to tour
Galilee, teaching
in synagogues,
proclaiming the
good news of the
kingdom of God,
and healing
people of every
disease and
sickness.

Today's story is about people answering a call.

When we get a 'call', we are used to these four options.



Jesus doesn't use a phone to call us, but we still get the options.

Whichever option we choose depends on how we see Jesus,
sort of like how we see a person calling us on our phone.

It can depend on:

- whether we like them or not,
- whether we 'get' them or not,
- whether we understand them or not
- or whether we want a bit more information to decide at a later date.

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- whether we want a bit more information to decide at a later date
- whether we want are ready to answer.

Sit quietly for a minute, and try to focus on why Jesus is calling you and whether you're ready to change your life and follow his ideas.

What do you need from him to help you decide?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Dear Lord,

You know it can be hard work to accept your call, especially when we don't quite 'get it'.

Help us to know you,
to see what you are like
and to understand how your
way can bring heaven to Earth.

**In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen**



Print and stick in if you can. Otherwise, spend a few moments writing what you are thinking in your home learning books.

It's so hard to find a picture of Jesus looking like a normal, approachable man on the internet!

However, if you can imagine looking into his face like the fishermen did that day, what kind of person do you think you would see there?

Why does Jesus want normal people like us (and the fishermen) to follow him? _____

