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## DAILY STUDY

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### Lesson 22: Jesus Begins His Ministry

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Passage: Read Matt. 4:12 -25 (Jn.1:35 - 4:42)

Verse: Matthew 4:19

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#### DAY 1 LET'S BEGIN:

1. John 1:19-4:42 gives an account of several events during Jesus' first year of ministry which Matthew omits. To what events do the following references in John relate?  
1:35-51  
2:1-11  
2:12-25  
3:1-21  
3:22-36  
4:1-42
2. What event marked the beginning of the official ministry of Jesus? (Mt. 4:12)
3. From what place did Jesus leave, and to what place did He go? (Mt. 4:12-13; Jn. 4:43)
4. Who were Zebulun and Nephthalim (Naphtali)? (Mt. 4:15; Gn. 49:13, 21; Jos. 19:10-16, 32-39)
5. How was Galilee described in Matthew 4:15?
6. How were the people of Galilee described in Matthew 4:16, and why do you think they were described that way?

#### DAY 2 FIND the FACTS:

1. What do you think the darkness was? (Jn. 3:19)
2. What sprung up on the people (Mt. 4:16), and what do you think it was?
3. What other references and descriptions can you give for the light the people saw?
4. What word in Matthew 4:17 describes what Jesus began to do from that time?
5. How would you define that word describing what Jesus was doing?
6. What was His message? (Mt. 4:17)
7. What does the word "repent" mean?
8. How is Jesus' preaching described in Matthew 7:29?
9. Who else had preached the same message? (Mt. 3:1-2)
10. What do you think Jesus was referring to by the kingdom of heaven? (Mt. 4:17)
11. How do you think it was at hand?
12. What do you think could have happened if the people had willingly received Jesus at that time?
13. However, what event still had to happen in God's time and plan? (Heb. 10:10)



### Lesson 22: Jesus Begins His Ministry

John 1:19 - 4:42 gives an account of the year of events which took place between the temptation of Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11 and the events of Matthew 4:12-17. Shortly after the temptation John the Baptist directed his own disciples toward Jesus with a series of statements on three consecutive days. John pointed them to (1) the far greater worthiness of Jesus, (2) to the "Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" and (3) to the "Son of God." At that two of his disciples began to follow Jesus. John was fully aware that he must decrease as Christ increased (Jn. 1:26-51).

Other events during that year included Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana, His cleansing of the Temple, His witness to Nicodemus at night, the final public witness of John the Baptist and Jesus' ministry in Samaria at Sychar. But then came the time for Jesus to begin His official ministry. Until then Jesus was increasing while John was decreasing.

In Matthew 4:12-17 we learn that the time was just after Jesus heard that Herod had put John the Baptist in prison. The place was Capernaum, which means village of Nahum. Nahum means compassion, so it was named the village of compassion. Jesus' message was the same as John's when He said they must repent for the kingdom of heaven was at hand. Later Jesus would describe Capernaum as being under judgment for its unbelief in the face of all the miracles it had seen (Mt. 11:23-24).

Jesus chose four fishermen to join Him fishers of men and to do more than just believe on Him. What did Jesus know about them that would cause him to choose them? What did Peter, Andrew, James, and John know about Jesus which caused them to leave their families, ask no questions and follow Jesus? The fishermen were workers,

and they knew about the preaching, teaching, and healing that Jesus had been doing. The fishermen were certainly not the religious leaders of the day. They had been observing Jesus for as long as a year by that time. They were not following impetuously.

What are our lives portraying to those around us? Are we like the religious leaders and those who attended the synagogues of Peter's and Andrew's day? Are we looking for ways to pick apart what God is doing and wants to do, or do our lives show that we are ready and willing to do what God says when He speaks to us? Is He doing miracles and is His providence apparent to us on a daily basis, or do we take for granted His power in our lives?

God can use any heart which is willing to be used. He made each of us uniquely and desires that we follow him. He is not willing that any should perish. God loves each of us even though He is not happy with everything we do.

We have the privilege of getting to know our students by studying them and finding out what their needs are; and by being a vessel to be used by God to communicate to them God's truth so that they will understand and respond. Jesus talked to the fishermen about fishing, and put his message in a language they understood. What language are our students speaking? Can we communicate with them in their language, or are we waiting for them to speak our language?

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**PRAYER:** *Help us follow Jesus faithfully because He has chosen each of us, and does not make a mistake. Help us study our students and learn to put Your message in their language.*


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**PREPARE to SHARE:** Review the passage, and use the questions to help draw the passage together in order to strengthen your relationship with God, your family and others.



**FOCUS:** Jesus began His ministry and called four fishermen.

**A. OBSERVE** 

1. Who are the main and other characters?
2. Where is the action taking place, and what are the characters doing?
3. What words or phrases: a. occur frequently; b. should be defined for the students (include a definition)?
  - a.
  - b.
4. What qualities, promises and/or commands of God do you see in this passage?

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**B. SUMMARIZE** 

1. Into what 2-4 sections would you divide this passage? Label the sections.
2. What information can be added by cross references?
3. Make a summary statement of ten words or less uniquely identifying the passage.

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**C. APPLY** 

1. From this passage what can you:
  - a. praise God for?
  - b. thank God for?
  - c. pray for yourself, your family and your class?
2. To apply this passage you would:
3. To apply this passage a student would:
4. What applications can be made as questions?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.

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**D. SHARE** 

1. What important points do you want to communicate to your class, and how?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.

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# PASSAGE SUMMARY

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## Lesson 22

### Jesus Begins His Ministry

During the year after Jesus was tempted by the devil a number of events took place which are not recorded in the book of Matthew. Those events included Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana, His cleansing of the Temple, His witness to Nicodemus at night, the final public witness of John the Baptist and Jesus' ministry in Samaria at Sychar. Early that year John had directed two of his disciples toward following Jesus. One of them was Andrew (Jn. 1:35-40).

Then Jesus heard that **John** had been arrested. That's when Jesus left Nazareth and went to **Capernaum** by the sea in Galilee. There Jesus began to preach, calling for repentance because the kingdom of heaven was at hand. He fulfilled the Scripture which said that those sitting in darkness by the Sea of Galilee, beyond the Jordan, would see a great light (Mt. 4:15-16).

As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee He saw two brothers, **Simon** and **Andrew**. They were **fisherman**, casting a net into the sea. Jesus called to them, telling them that He would make them fishers of men if they

followed Him. They quickly abandoned their nets and followed Jesus. Then Jesus came to the brothers, **James** and **John**, who were mending nets with their father. Jesus **called** them, also, and they immediately followed.



Jesus traveled all through Galilee teaching in synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and **healing** all sorts of diseases, sicknesses and demon-possessed people. The four fishermen went with Him. News of His healing spread quickly in Syria, and He healed many. Great multitudes followed Him from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and beyond Jordan. The people liked the **miracles** and followed Him because of the good things He did for them. But not many would continue to follow as persecution began and grew. Who are you following today and why?

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QUESTIONS: Where did Jesus go?  
Who did He call, and what did they do?  
What did Jesus begin doing?  
How did the people respond?

BIBLE VERSES: Matthew 4:19 And He saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.



**ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS:** *Consider the needs of the children, then vary the suggestions according to your talents and interests.*




**BEGINNING:**  *Statement and/or activity to begin getting the children's attention.*

Use a word puzzle/color page. Use pictures of fish to match and observe; fishing poles and net. Use paper clips on fish shapes, and attach a magnet to a string at the end of a rod. **Use caution to let the children go fishing. (See the verse activity below).**

SAY: Welcome to the Sea of Galilee. We are going fishing today. That's where Jesus is talking to some fishermen.

**TRANSITIONS:**  *Use one or two during the week, keep them simple, positive and fun.*


- After we clean up the toys, we'll see what the next fish says to do. This is the way we clean up...
- Follow ... as we go to ...

**VERSE:**  *Locate it in the Bible. The goal is enjoyable association, participation and repetition.*

**Fish Shapes:** Put the words on fish shapes or on footprints. You may want to have the words on the fish shapes from the beginning activity. Assemble the verse while the class repeats it several times.

**SONGS and HYMNS:**  *Sing together.*

- "Fishers of Men," "Oh, How I Love Jesus," "Jesus Loves Even Me"
- **Say and Do:** Let's sing praises to God who wanted the fishermen to follow Him just like He wants us to follow Him today. Sing from a pretend fishing boat and do some pretend fishing activities.

**LARGE MUSCLE:**  *Use when it is time for some guided action.*

**Quickly Following:** Call individual children to follow a particular direction.

SAY: The four men immediately followed Jesus.

**THINK and DO:**  *Look up, look around, look inside.*

- **Fishing Boats:** Make a boat of blocks.  
SAY: Talk about what the brothers were doing when Jesus called them.
- **Individuals:** Have students practice printing or writing their names.  
SAY: Jesus called the men by name. He wants everyone to follow Him.
- **Fishing Books:** Provide books about fish.  
SAY: Relate fishing for fish to fishing for people.
- **Map:** Locate the Sea of Galilee on a map.  
SAY: Jesus was near the Sea of Galilee when he heard that John the Baptist had been put in prison.
- **Pantomime Events:** Consider the events of John 1:19 - 4:42, and present something to represent each one. Since these will be covered later in John in detail, we will only cover them briefly here.  
SAY: The book of John tells about some things that Matthew does not include.

**TODDLER ACTIVITIES:**  *Do one or more with each child some time during the week.*


- **Individuals:** Help the children trace their names in the sand. Jesus called the men by name. He wants each of us to follow Him.
- **Follow Immediately:** Have individual children follow a particular direction. The four men immediately followed Jesus.

**SNACK and SHARE:**  *Parent's time to listen.*

- **Snack:** Fish shaped crackers; water. Serve near a boat.
- **Questions:** Have you ever been fishing? What kinds of fish can you name?

**STOP and CONSIDER:**  *A time to think quietly.*

Let's find a quiet place to rest in the boat and think about following Jesus.

**REVIEW:**  *An enjoyable time of remembering or practicing.*

**Concentration/Matching Game:** Use fish shapes, people shapes with the names of the disciples Jesus called.