

## WEEK 9

## Live It All Week

Lower Elementary Take Home Paper for Families

**What Your Child Learned Today**

After Jesus was baptized, he began to travel and preach the good news that God was now beginning to establish his kingdom. "The kingdom of God has come near. Turn away from your sins and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:15b). Today's passage introduces us to four men who took Jesus's message to heart and became his disciples (or students): Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John. They were fishermen by trade. When Jesus encountered them along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he invited them to leave their nets and follow him. They did so immediately!

The lesson today familiarized your child with this story and explained key terms such as *disciple*. We talked about how eager and excited the disciples were to follow Jesus. They knew that Jesus was teaching about God's kingdom, and they wanted to learn all they could about how God was going to save them. They were ready to do what Jesus wanted them to do: to repent of their sin, learn from him, and teach others about God and his kingdom. We also discussed how each of us has the opportunity to follow Jesus and learn from him, just like Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John.

**Try This**

This week's passage was from Mark 1:14–20. Read the parallel passage in Matthew 4:12–22. Your child will recognize it as the same story. Encourage your child to retell the story in their own words. Invite them to ask questions about the passage and to think about how the disciples must have felt when Jesus invited them to follow him.

**Table Talk**

► **Your child learned about how the first disciples left their livelihoods to follow Jesus. In those days, to be a disciple meant following the teacher around all the time, in order to have as much opportunity as possible to learn from him. The four men whom Jesus calls in this passage were willing to do this because they were "hooked" by Jesus's message: the good news that God's kingdom was at hand. As a family, discuss what it looks like to be a disciple of Jesus today. Is being a disciple a high priority for your family? Consider praying together that God will give each person in your family the kind of joy for the gospel that the disciples had, that you would all be willing to leave what you must in order to follow him.**

**Revelation of the Kingdom and Call to Follow**

- Scripture: Mark 1:14–20
- Big Idea: Good news! Like the disciples, we can follow Jesus and be part of his kingdom.
- Memory Verse: "The kingdom of God has come near. Turn away from your sins and believe the good news!" Mark 1:15b

**SOMETHING ELSE TO DO**

This week, have each family member consider ways in which they can follow Jesus. Examples might include: showing kindness to someone who has wronged them, being quick to repent of sin, and being eager to share God's forgiveness with others. We can also pursue things like Bible reading, prayer, and worship. Just as the disciples continually followed after Jesus, so can we!