

Time In God's Word

Introduction: Bible Study

“Come, follow me.” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

Matthew 4:19 (NIV84)

1. Read Matthew 4:12-23 circling every time you see the word follow or followed.
What do you observe?

Where did these interactions occur?

Who followed Jesus?

Why do you think they did?

2. What picture comes to mind when you think of the word “follow?” Take a moment to draw the picture on a piece of paper (stick figures are fine! ;0)

3. If you have access to the Blue Letter Bible on your phone or laptop it is fascinating to look up this verse in Greek - start with Matthew 4, click on verse 19, then at the top click where it says Interlinear/concordance, scroll down until you find the word follow and write the word and its definition below.

What picture comes to mind when you consider Jesus' invitation to follow is really “Come behind me?” How does this relate to the picture you drew?

Now go to Matthew 4: 20 and look up the Greek definition for follow. What do you observe?

Now look up the word “followed” in Matthew 4:25, what do you discover?

4. In what ways were Peter and Andrew, James and John's response similar to the crowds?

5. In what ways was Peter and Andrew, James and John's response to Jesus different from the crowds'?

6. Have you ever had to leave anything to follow Jesus? If yes, please share the story! Or is there something you sense Jesus calling you now to leave to follow Him?

7. According to Jesus' invitation in Matthew 4:19, what is Jesus' part and what is our part? (If you want to have fun look up the Greek word for “make.”)

8. What does Jesus promise in this verse?

9. The words “I will make” are actually very powerful coming from God! They occur 110 times in the Bible. For example, in Genesis 2:18 when God declares, “it is not good for man to be alone I will make a helper suitable for him” and in Genesis 12:1 when God invites Abraham to leave his country and his family and follow Him, He says “And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great and you shall be a blessing.” ^(NIV)

What thoughts come to mind as you consider this?

10. How does this connect with your life?