

Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

Take a look at Matthew 4.17-22.

- What did Jesus call Peter, John, and their brothers to do?
- What did the call mean for them? How did they respond?
- What did Jesus promise he would do for them?
- What did these four men have to leave in order to follow Jesus? Were these things bad? Why did they have to leave them?
- Look up the word 'repent' in a dictionary. Do you think there is a connection between 'repenting' (verse 17) and becoming a follower of Jesus (verse 19)? Explain why or why not.

Read what the following passages have to say about being a disciple and fill in the chart.

| Passage | What did Jesus say? | What do you think this means? |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Matthew 16.24 | | |
| John 8.31-32 | | |
| John 13.34-35 | | |

Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

Look again at Matthew 4.17-22.

- When Jesus called men to follow him, do you think he had more in mind than just inviting them to hang around with him? What did Jesus mean when he said “follow me”?
- Does Jesus still call men to follow him?

Read John 13.15-17. Jesus said this *after* spending three years with his disciples.

- Why did Jesus give them an example?
- When are Jesus’ followers blessed? (v. 17)

In Acts 4.13 we find Peter and John again. This was several years after Jesus first called them, and after he had returned to the Father. What did others recognize about Peter and John?

Making it Count

How do I live what I’ve learned?

Following Jesus involves:

- 1) Spending time with him,
 - 2) Learning from his example and teachings,
 - 3) Because you want to become like him.
- How do we spend time with Jesus today? Where do we ‘find him’ now that he no longer walks the earth as a man? (Hint: John 14.21 and Matthew 18.20)
 - Jesus’ first disciples had to leave some things in order to follow Jesus. Are there things you will need to leave in order to spend time with Jesus and become like him? What are they?
 - Jesus promised his disciples that he would make them “fishers of men”. What do you think this means? How do you feel about Jesus making you a fisher of men?