

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. Matthew 4:18-20 (NIV)

Drop Everything

Will you drop everything in an instant for me? That is an easy question that is hard to answer. I know I can't successfully answer this question without your help. I could say that I would drop everything. I could want to drop everything. But, would I really drop everything? I don't know for sure. I'm willing. I want to drop everything for you at anytime and in any place. I always want to make myself fully available to you. **That's a start. I can work with that. I will help you to learn to drop everything for me.**

Will you stop to listen for my call? Will you set aside all that you are doing to hear everything I have to say to you?

Listening is not my strong point. Stopping is even harder. I'm too busy. I'm always on the go. I will need you to do something dramatic to get my attention. I will need you to say something loudly for me to hear. I want to stop for you. I want to hear you. I will listen to you. I will respond to you. Do all that you need to do to get my attention. Raise your voice. Give me a shout. I don't want to miss one word of all that you have to say to me. **That's not going to work. That's not my style. That's not what I do.** What do you suggest? What do you want? **Don't be too busy. Don't always be on the go. You will need to come to me. You will need to rest in my presence. You will need to quiet yourself before me. You will need to listen attentively to me. Being busy is no virtue. There is no prize for always being on the go. If you want to hear from me you will stop. If you want my instructions you will need to wait. Will you come to me? Will you listen for my call? Will you set aside what you are doing to hear from me?** Yes Lord, I will. **Then you will hear from me.**

Will you leave your old life behind to come and follow me? My old life is no prize. My old life is bruised and battered and broken, weary and worn out. My old life is full of sin and death. There is nothing from my old life that I want. There is nothing from my old life that I need. I want you. I love you. You are my Savior. You are my Lord. **Yes, I am.** I want to live the life that you have for me. I want to go where you lead me. I want to do all that you ask of me. I will leave my old life to follow you. **That is very good. I will lead you. Follow me.**

Lord, you got my attention. You made it so my ears could hear your call. I dropped everything. You helped me to leave my old life behind. You have made me able to follow you. Lead me to where you want me to go to do all that you have given me to do. Amen

Rhythms*Leave - Follow*

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

NIV

Matthew 4:18-20

Rhythms*Leave - Follow*

One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" And they left their nets at once and followed him.

NLT

Matthew 4:18-20

Rhythms*Leave - Follow*

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

NRSV

Matthew 4:18-20

Rhythms*Leave - Follow*

As He was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He noticed two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, throwing a dragnet into the sea, for they were fishermen. And He said to them, Come after Me [as disciples—letting Me be your Guide], follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men! At once they left their nets and became His disciples [sided with His party and followed Him].

AMP

Matthew 4:18-20

Rhythms*Leave - Follow*

Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He *said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

NASB

Matthew 4:18-20

Rhythms*Leave - Follow*

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

ESV

Matthew 4:18-20

Rhythms*Leave - Follow*

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

NKLV

Matthew 4:18-20

Rhythms*Leave - Follow*

Walking along the beach of Lake Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers: Simon (later called Peter) and Andrew. They were fishing, throwing their nets into the lake. It was their regular work. Jesus said to them, "Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass." They didn't ask questions, but simply dropped their nets and followed.

MSG

Matthew 4:18-20

Rhythms*Leave - Follow*

One day as he was walking along the beach beside the Lake of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—out in a boat fishing with a net, for they were commercial fishermen. Jesus called out, "Come along with me and I will show you how to fish for the souls of men!" And they left their nets at once and went with him.

TLB

Matthew 4:18-20

Rhythms*Leave - Follow*

As Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and his brother Andrew. They were throwing a net into the lake because they were fishermen. Jesus said, "Come follow me, and I will make you fish for people." So Simon and Andrew immediately left their nets and followed him.

NCV

Matthew 4:18-20

Leave – Follow

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Rhythms – Matthew 4:18-20

In Context: *Read Matthew 4*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. Matthew 4:18-20

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

As Jesus | was walking | beside | the Sea | of Galilee, | he saw | two brothers, | Simon | called Peter | and | his brother | Andrew. | They were | casting a net | into | the lake, | for | they were | fishermen. | "Come, | follow me," | Jesus said, | "and I | will make you | fishers of men." | At once | they left | their nets | and | followed | him. Matthew 4:18-20

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, you got my attention. You made it so my ears could hear your call. I dropped everything. You helped me to leave my old life behind. You have made me able to follow you. Lead me to where you want me to go to do all that you have given me to do. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How did Jesus Christ call you to leave your old life behind so you could begin to follow Him?

What have you had to drop and leave behind from your old life so you could begin to follow Jesus Christ?

Why do you not miss the things of your old life that you have dropped and left behind to follow Jesus Christ?

How has Jesus Christ changed your heart and mind and life since you began to follow and serve Him?

Where has Jesus Christ led you since you started following Him?

What work has Jesus Christ given you to do as you have continued to follow Him?

How does it feel to know that you have been called and made able to follow and serve Jesus Christ?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Leave behind your old life so that you can follow and serve Jesus Christ in the new life He has given you to live.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that Jesus Christ has called you to leave your old life so you can follow and serve Him.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you have left your old life to follow and serve Jesus Christ.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you hear and respond to the call of Christ to leave everything so that you can follow and serve Him.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will leave everything behind so that I can follow and serve you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how do you want to use my life as I leave everything behind to follow and serve you?
