

Fishers of Men

4th - 6th Grade
Lesson 6

The Disciples of Christ

Do you remember the song that we sing in church sometimes about fishers of men? Some of the words are: "I will make you fishers of men, if you follow me!" This song is from a story in the Bible when Jesus told His disciples to become fishers of men.

A disciple is someone who follows Jesus. Jesus chose twelve men to be His disciples while He was on earth. They spent time with Jesus while He was on earth. They saw Him do many miracles!

In this lesson, we are going to learn how Jesus told His disciples to be fishers of men, just like the song we sing!

Who Were the 12 Disciples?

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.

—I Corinthians 1:26-27

The Bible tells us that disciples were not wise or mighty. They were just normal people! But God chose them to be with Him. God can use anyone to serve Him. Maybe you are not very smart. Maybe you are not very rich or popular. But God says that He can use you! God has a special plan for everyone.

And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

—Matthew 4:19-20

The Bible does not tell us what the disciples did before they followed Jesus. We only know that four of them were fishermen and one was a tax collector. In Matthew 4:19, Jesus told the disciples that He would make them fishers of men if they followed Him! Jesus meant that He was going to teach them to "catch" people with the Gospel!

And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

—Luke 9:23

Jesus asked these men to leave their jobs and follow Him. And they did. They were willing to leave everything they had to live for Jesus. Would you be willing to give up something for Jesus? Sometimes God asks us to give up things for Him so that we can follow Him. Sometimes we need

to give up a certain kind of music or certain kinds of friends. Missionaries give up their homes and families to go all the way across the world to tell other people about Jesus. Some people have even given their lives to live for Jesus!

What Did They Do?

The Bible tells us that the disciples believed that Jesus was the Son of God. Many people in Jerusalem thought that Jesus was only a prophet. They saw Him do many miracles, but they did not believe that He was the Son of God. They thought He had a special gift. Some people even thought Jesus was bad. Many of the priests in Jerusalem wanted Jesus out of the city. They did not believe He was the Messiah of the Old Testament. We already learned how Jesus fulfilled all of the prophecies in the Old Testament. Still, the Jewish leaders did not believe in Him. But the disciples did.

Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

—John 6:68, 69

Many people came to see Jesus do miracles. He healed the sick and raised the dead. He made blind people able to see again. He made lame people able to walk again. People from everywhere would come to hear what Jesus had to say, but later they left. Jesus asked the disciples if they were going to leave Him like everyone else. Peter told Him that they would not leave. He told Jesus that they believed that He was God's Son.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

—Matthew 28:18-20

The last thing that Jesus told the disciples was that they should go tell people about the Gospel. We call this the Great Commission. But it was not only for the disciples. It was for you and me too! The disciples went all over the world telling everyone about Jesus. People all over the world believed in Jesus.

Conclusion

The disciples changed the whole world for Jesus. They told someone, who told someone else, who told someone else! We can change the world for Jesus too! All we need to do is tell everyone we can about Jesus! Many of the disciples gave their lives to serve Jesus. All throughout history, men and women and boys and girls have given their lives for Jesus. Sometimes we think that only missionaries can tell people about Jesus. But each Christian can be a missionary right where he is! Maybe you have neighbors who have never heard about Jesus. Go tell someone about Jesus today!