

# Into the Life of Jesus

*a study in the gospel of Mark*  
study #3

## Intro – Where have we been?

Recall the two short verses in Mark 1:14 & 15.

- What did you notice that you'd never noticed before?
- In the original Greek text, there are no punctuation marks but English translations usually place an exclamation mark after Jesus' very first public statement (v.15). Why do you think this is so?
- Is Jesus simply stating informational facts or is there a sense of urgency to his words? Is there urgency in this for us? If so, how?

## Mark 1:16-20

**Opening up the Text:** Read these verses aloud as a group (perhaps have a second person read the second paragraph to give a sense that the scene changes).

- Make a list of the action words (verbs).
- Make a chart of the names (and unnamed people with jobs) and their relationship(s) to one another.
- List the ways you imagine fishing in Galilee and fishing on Vancouver Island to be similar & different (eg. equipment, working hours, risks/dangers, financial security).

## Exploring the Text:

- Is the action taking place in religious space (eg. synagogue, temple) or a public event? Or someplace else? *Where do we typically interact with Jesus?*
- Who initiates the two key conversations in this passage? Why might this be significant?
- Do you think Jesus is asking the two pairs of brothers a question, giving an invitation or issuing a command (or perhaps a hybrid of these)?
- How do you imagine others at the edge of the story might have reacted? Zebedee? Mrs. Simon?

## From Text to Life:

- What do you think it was about Jesus' call to the two pairs of brothers that provoked such an immediate, life-changing response?
- For us modern folks, do we imagine that we would have responded similarly OR with skepticism OR wanting 'more information please' OR 'when I get my affairs in order'?
- How have we experienced Jesus' call in our own lives?
  - If not (or not yet), what do you imagine needs to be left behind in order to hear and follow? Is the cost of hearing and following simply too high (be honest)?
- Does Jesus really have the best for you in mind or is he simply trolling for you as a fishing tool to get his task completed?

**PRAY:** for one another, especially that we could hear—really HEAR—and respond to the call of God with eagerness and trust.