



# 12

## Jesus Calls Followers

### Key Theme

- God provides salvation from sin through Jesus.

### Key Passages

- John 1:29–51; Matthew 4:12–22, 9:9–13;  
Genesis 28:10–22; Daniel 7:13

### Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain how Jesus called His disciples.
- Describe what the disciples did after He called them.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Write on the board, “How did Jesus gain His first disciples?”

Students will review the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Crossword and reciting the verse to a friend or to the class.

- Memory Verse Crossword for each student from the Resource DVD-ROM



### Studying God's Word

As Jesus began His public ministry, He called disciples to follow Him. These disciples were convinced that Jesus was the Messiah. They ran to tell friends and family that they had found the Messiah. In their enthusiasm to learn from Jesus, they left their old lives behind and followed Him.

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



### Activity: Are You an Evangelist?

Students will examine passages in Scripture intended to show them that every Christian should be involved in evangelism.

- Are You an Evangelist? worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student
- Pencils



# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above along with this background.

In Lesson 11 we learned that Jesus began His public ministry when He was publicly baptized by John. He was then led out to the wilderness where He fasted from food for 40 days and was tempted by the devil. These events verify to us that Jesus was fully man and identified with man. Yet we know He remained fully righteous in His obedience to the Law so that His righteousness could be applied to all who would turn to Him in repentance and faith.

As Jesus continued His ministry, we find that He called certain men to be His disciples. The word *disciple* means a student, a pupil, a learner. The first disciples Jesus called were followers of John the Baptist. John the Baptist was a prophet. His coming was predicted by the prophet Isaiah who said there would be a voice of one crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord (Isaiah 40:3). The Jews had waited 400 years since the prophecies of Malachi for this voice. John was that voice, and he had been preaching to the people for months. John was highly revered by the people of Israel as a prophet. So what would their reaction be as he looked up at Jesus and said, “Behold the Lamb of God” (John 1:36)? John’s disciples heard the announcement, and they followed Jesus—just like that. They left their mentor, John the Baptist, and followed Jesus. One of these disciples was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. The Bible says that Andrew went to find his brother to tell him they had found the Messiah, and they both went to Jesus (John 1:40–42).

Later, we read of these two brothers who apparently had returned to fishing after their initial meeting with Jesus. Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee and saw them. He said, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” The Bible says they immediately left their nets and followed Him (Matthew 4:18–20).

Jesus also called to Philip, “Follow Me” (John 1:43). What did Philip do? He went and found Nathanael and told him they had found the one whom Moses and the prophets had written of—Jesus of Nazareth (John 1:45). Nathanael and Philip went after Jesus.

As Jesus went on He saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They, too, were fishermen. The Bible tells us they were mending their nets when Jesus called to them. They imme-

diately left the boat and their father and followed Jesus (Matthew 4:22).

Jesus did not call His disciples from among the religious elite. In fact, Matthew had been a tax collector. Tax collectors were among the most despised people in Jewish society. This was because they collected taxes for Rome, keeping much of the people’s money for themselves. They were often considered thieves and traitors. So what did Jesus do? He saw this man Matthew—the tax collector—and He said to him, “Follow Me.” And Matthew arose and followed Him (Matthew 9:9).

We learn that Matthew invited Jesus to his home for dinner. As Jesus sat there, many tax collectors and sinners came to sit with Jesus and His disciples (Mark 2:15). Matthew had apparently invited others who did not know Jesus to come and meet Him.

That is how the kingdom advances. People meet the Savior, and their hearts are moved to call on friends and family to come and meet Him as well. So Andrew found his brother Simon Peter, and they both went after Jesus. Philip encountered the Lord and ran to tell Nathanael. And upon meeting the Savior, Matthew the tax collector was moved to host a party and invite his sinful friends to meet the sinless one who came to seek and to save the lost.

These men called by Jesus were not spectacular in any way. They were simple men and had no influence with important people. They often faltered in their faith, struggling and doubting God. Yet God used them to influence the world for all eternity with the truth that they witnessed in Jesus Christ. We can learn from this. The Bible tells us that God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise; He has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things that are mighty (1 Corinthians 1:27–28). We are weak and foolish. We are called as believers to follow the examples of these early disciples. We are called to spend our lives declaring the truth of Christ to others.

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

If you read the accounts of the calling of the disciples in Matthew 4, Mark 1, Luke 4, and John 1, you might get a bit confused about how and when Jesus called the disciples to follow Him. Some have even used the differences in these accounts to say that the Bible cannot be trusted. But if we slow down and carefully organize

our thoughts and compare each of the passages, the apparent contradictions disappear. But that takes some effort—effort far too few people are willing to exert.

Try taking a poll at church: How did Jesus call the first disciples? What do you expect the most common answer to be? For most people, the scene of Jesus calling the fishermen to drop their nets and become fishers of men probably comes to mind. But this idea, probably picked up from a sermon or some type of audio or video depiction, is a false view. Now, is this type of misconception going to lead anyone into major error? No. But it is this type of small error that can lead to misunderstandings that cause doubt about the truthfulness of Scripture.

Let's look at each of the Gospels and try to determine the order of the events of the baptism of Jesus, the temptation in the wilderness, and the calling of the first disciples. Look for additional notes in your Bible that will help you connect the accounts. These might be in the form of footnotes, margin notes, or headings above passages that connect the various accounts. Remember, the Gospels give different perspectives on what Jesus did, but they are all true. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all give the same basic timeline. This is why we call them the synoptics ("same view"). Take a few minutes to consider how the order of events in the synoptic Gospels compares to those in John.

Synoptics: John the Baptist preached repentance (Matthew 3:1–12; Mark 1:4–8; Luke 3:1–20); Jesus was baptized by John (Matthew 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22); Jesus was led to the wilderness to be tempted (Matthew 4:1–11; Mark 1:12–13; Luke 4:1–13); Jesus traveled to Galilee and preached repentance (Matthew 4:12–17; Mark 1:14–15; Luke 4:14–30); Jesus called Simon, Andrew, James, and John (Matthew 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20, Luke 5:1–11).

John: John the Baptist preached and baptized (1:19–28); Jesus was baptized (1:29–34); Andrew, Simon, and a third disciple followed Jesus (1:35–42); Philip and Nathanael followed Jesus (1:43–51); Jesus and the disciples traveled to Cana, and the water was turned to wine (2:1–10); Jesus and the disciples traveled to Capernaum (2:11–12); Jesus and the disciples traveled to Jerusalem, and Jesus cleared the Temple (2:13–25); Jesus talked with Nicodemus (3:1–21); Jesus baptized in Judea while John the Baptist was still alive (3:22–36); Jesus and the disciples traveled through Samaria, witnessing to many (4:1–42); Jesus traveled to Galilee and healed many people (4:43ff).

John gives us a lot more detail and shows that there are a lot of events that happened between the time the first five disciples began following Jesus, right after the temptation, and the setting aside of the nets to become fishers of men. And there is a big clue as to the timing of events in Matthew. Many of the events described by John must have happened between Matthew 4:11 and 4:12. Specifically, we know that John had not been imprisoned in John 3:23, so the first five disciples had been following Jesus for quite some time before the calling from the seashore. There is a reasonable explanation for the apparent conflict if we take the time to carefully and prayerfully study the text.

Sadly, even when we can explain these ideas to skeptics, they still refuse to accept the spiritual truths that are rooted in these historical events. John the Baptist called people to repent and trust in "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). But this is foolishness to those who do not have the Spirit of God. The message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. They rely on their own fallible reasoning rather than submitting to God's revelation. They claim to be wise and understand the truth apart from God, but they are really foolish (1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16). May we boldly proclaim the "foolish" message of the Cross and the Resurrection, trusting that God will use our preaching to open the eyes of those who hear so that they, too, may know that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ (Colossians 2:1–3).



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear Jesus, I love your Word! Thank you for including these portraits of your disciples for us. The joy with which they came to you and the quick desire they demonstrated to tell their close friends and family about you is refreshing. I want to be more like that—filled with pure love and confidence in my Savior who brings salvation and hope to a lost and dying world that needs Him. Forgive me for holding back because I've been afraid or embarrassed. Move in the hearts of my students today to see your truth and begin lives of unashamed devotion to the Gospel of Christ!

## Review

As you think back to our lesson from last week, the key idea that we drew out of the Gospel of Matthew was Jesus's willingness to identify with sinful humanity.

? **What two events did we draw this idea from?** *At His baptism, Jesus identified with those sinners receiving John's baptism and repenting of their sins, even though Jesus had no sins to repent of. During His temptation in the wilderness, Jesus fasted and fought the temptations of Satan as a man, not relying on His abilities as God (to turn stones into bread, for example).*

Knowing that Jesus humbled Himself to become a man and identified with us, should be a great encouragement to us. Not only did Jesus offer Himself as a substitute for our sins, but He also offers us a model to follow. He was the perfect man who obeyed the will of His Father perfectly. As we learned last week, Jesus showed us His trust in the Scriptures to fight the temptations

that Satan brought at Him. When we arm ourselves with the truth of God's Word, we can battle the temptations that come our way, whether from the devil, the world, or our own flesh.

But when we fail to fight effectively and give in to those temptations, we have a great High Priest who has already paid the penalty for that sin. When we confess those sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us because of what Christ has done. We can look to Christ not only as a model of obedience but also as our great God and Savior who has died for our sins on the Cross and was raised from the dead for our justification.

Today we will continue looking at the earthly ministry of Jesus and the ripple effects of calling His first disciples.



► Write on the board, "How did Jesus gain His first disciples?"



## Studying God's Word

### READ THE WORD

Before we look at our text today, I want to ask you a question about the timing of events. Raise your hands if you think that Jesus gained His first disciples as he called them from their boats on the Sea of Galilee.

For those of you who didn't raise your hand, you either think the rest of the class is wrong or you think I am trying to trick you. Well, let's go to the text to find the answer.

John 1:29-51

Last week we read the account of the baptism and temptation of Jesus from Matthew's Gospel. This week we are going to read from John's account. Let's read John 1:29-51 together. *Have someone read the passage aloud.*

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? **When did these events take place?** Verse 29 sets them the day after John's confrontation with those sent by the Pharisees (verses 19 and 24).
- ? **What time markers are given in verses 29, 35, and 43?** The next day is used twice and the following day once, so these verses span three days.
- ? **How did John identify Jesus?** John calls Him the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, and the Son of God.
- ? **Based on verse 32, when were these things happening with respect to the baptism and temptation?** Since John refers to the baptism in the past, and Jesus was taken immediately into the wilderness by the Spirit (Matthew 4:1), this must be after Jesus had returned from the 40 days of temptation in the wilderness.
- ? **Who was Jesus addressing in verse 38?** Two men who had been following John the Baptist, identified as disciples of John. One is identified as Andrew in verse 40. It is likely that John is the unnamed disciple as he does not refer to himself by name anywhere in his Gospel account.
- ? **What prompted them to follow Jesus?** Upon hearing John refer to Him as the Lamb of God, they followed Jesus.
- ? **What did their question to Jesus indicate?** Since they asked where He was staying, they were interested in staying with Him and leaving John.
- ? **How did they refer to Jesus?** They called Him Rabbi, which is the Jewish name for a teacher, as the parenthetical translation into Greek indicates.
- ? **How long did they stay with Him?** They were with Him all day, the "tenth hour" being about 4 p.m.
- ? **What did Andrew tell Peter about Jesus?** He told him they had found the Messiah.
- ? **What did Andrew do after that?** He brought Peter to Jesus.
- ? **How did Jesus relate to Simon?** He named him and his father, and then gave him the name Cephas (Aramaic) which is Peter in Greek rather than Simon. He is often referred to as Simon Peter and occasionally as Cephas.
- ? **How did Jesus first interact with Philip?** He simply said, "Follow Me."
- ? **What did Philip do in response?** Though his acknowledgement is not recorded, he showed his willingness to follow by going and finding Nathanael.
- ? **How were Andrew, Peter, and Philip connected?** They were all from the same city, Bethsaida. It is likely that they had all traveled to where John was baptizing and had heard John's teaching on the Messiah. It seems that Nathanael had some similar connection, though it is not identified.
- ? **What did Philip tell Nathanael about Jesus?** He called Him Jesus of Nazareth and identified Him as the son of Joseph. He also said Jesus was the one Moses and the prophets spoke of.

➤ Nathanael is identified as Bartholomew in other lists and is usually associated with Philip.

? **How would Nathanael have understood Philip's reference to the one Moses and the prophets spoke of?** *He would have connected this to the prophet which Moses described in Deuteronomy 18:18 and the one John had been preparing the people for.*

? **How did Nathanael communicate his skepticism of Philip's claim?** *He doubted the Messiah could have come from Nazareth. This could be a doubt because he knew the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem or because Nazareth was an obscure town of no reputation.*

? **How did Jesus respond as Nathanael approached?** *Rather than naming him as before, Jesus talked of Nathanael's upright character.*

? **What did Jesus's response to Nathanael's question lead to?** *After Jesus told him what he was doing, Nathanael acknowledged Jesus as the Son of God and King of Israel, just as John had been preaching. He acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah.*

? **As Jesus responded to Nathanael's acknowledgment, what did Jesus foretell?** *He told Nathanael, and presumably the others gathered, that he would see greater things as He followed Jesus.*

Genesis 28:10-22

? **In verse 51, Jesus made a connection or allusion to an event that happened back in Genesis. Does anyone recognize the allusion?** *He was referring to the dream Jacob had in Genesis 28 where he saw angels ascending and descending a ladder from heaven. Here Jesus acknowledged that He is the ladder, indicating a connection between heaven and earth—God has come to earth as a man.*

Daniel 7:13

? **What name did Jesus apply to Himself in verse 51?** *He referred to Himself as the Son of Man. This is one of the most common self-references Jesus used and comes from Daniel 7:13.*

? **At this point, who were the disciples of Jesus?** *Andrew, Peter, Philip, Nathanael, and John.*

? **What three words did John provide translations for?** *Rabbi is Hebrew and means teacher in Greek (v. 38); Messiah is Hebrew and means Christ in Greek (v. 41); Cephas means "a stone" in Aramaic and is Peter in Greek (v. 42).*

### Discover the Truth

Think about this for a moment: Your brother comes to you and says he has found the Messiah. You follow him, probably thinking he is a little crazy, and then you meet the man who calls you by name having never

met you. On top of that, He gives you a new name. That might seem a bit presumptuous, but you know that you have just met the promised Messiah—the Savior your people have been waiting for since the promise to Eve and its continuation through Abraham and David.

And then you hear Him name Nathanael upon meeting him, telling him where he had been before he came with Phillip. There can be little doubt these men were shocked. They knew they had found the Son of God, the King of Israel, the Messiah, the Prophet, the Son of Man.

- ? What attribute of God did Jesus demonstrate in identifying Peter and Nathaniel and telling Nathanael what he was doing? *Omniscience—Jesus knew all things.*

These men had been sitting under John the Baptist’s teaching. They had acknowledged their sinfulness and had been baptized. Andrew and John are called disciples of John. So let’s make sure we know what that designation means so that we can understand it as we move forward in our study.

- ? What word do we use all of the time that shares the root of “disciple”? *Discipline.*

And that is what a disciple is—one who is disciplined under a teacher. In the Jewish culture, a disciple is someone who submits to the teachings of a rabbi. A disciple serves the teacher and adheres to his teachings. As we read through the Gospels, some who casually follow Jesus and listen to his teachings for a time are called disciples, but then there are the core group of 12 and others who follow Him faithfully throughout His ministry.

In John 8:31–32, Jesus told some Jews who were following Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” To be a disciple is to abide in the teachings of your master. It is a true submission. In the case of Jesus, those who turn from their sins and acknowledge Jesus as the Savior are those who become His disciples.



OMNISCIENT



# Are You an Evangelist?

## MATERIALS

- Are You an Evangelist? worksheet for each student
- Pencils

## INSTRUCTIONS

- ? When I say the word *evangelist*, who or what comes to mind? *Accept various responses.*
- ? What does an evangelist do? *An evangelist is one who shares the good news with others. In the Christian context, this is someone who tells others of the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

On this worksheet is an activity that asks, **Are You an Evangelist?** Take a few minutes to work through those questions, and then we will discuss them.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Let's talk through what you found in each of these passages.

- ? Are you a disciple of Christ? (John 8:12) *Hopefully this is true, but if it is not then there is a need to share the gospel with this person in your class. Be willing to talk openly about this point, gladly sharing the hope and truth of Christ.*
- ? When Andrew knew he had found the Messiah, what did he do? (John 1:40–42) *He went and told Peter about Jesus.*
- ? When Philip knew that Jesus was the Messiah, what did he do? (John 1:45) *He went and told Nathanael and brought him to Jesus.*
- ? Where are repentance and the remission of sins to be preached? (Luke 24:46–49) *To all nations.*
- ? Who are supposed to be made into disciples? (Matthew 28:19) *People of all nations.*
- ? What are the disciples to be taught? (Matthew 28:20) *To observe all that Jesus commanded.*

- ? Does teaching all that Jesus taught and commanded include sharing the gospel with people who have not heard? *Jesus taught and commanded His disciples to share the gospel and call others to repentance and faith. So this should also be taught to all disciples, and they should pass that teaching and command on to those who become disciples.*
- ? To what ministry does Paul call the members of the church at Corinth? (2 Corinthians 5:16–21) *To the ministry of reconciling people to God through Christ, just as they have been reconciled—a ministry of gospel proclamation.*
- ? Can you think of any passages of Scripture that teach that some disciples should not be making disciples by sharing the good news? *Some may suggest Ephesians 4:11, but this passage is likely referring to "offices" in the church who are to equip the saints for ministry. There are many clear passages that call all believers to evangelism. There are some who are called to full-time evangelism just as there are some who are full-time pastors, but all believers have the opportunity and duty to share the gospel with others.*
- ? Are you called to share the good news of the gospel and make disciples? *If you are a Christian, a disciple of Jesus, you are called to share the good news with others.*

We are all called to evangelize—to share the gospel with others—though not all of us are called to a full-time ministry of evangelism. This seems scary to a lot of us. But where would we be if someone did not care to share with us that we need a Savior? We would still be dead in our trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1) and enemies of God through our wicked works (Colossians 1:21). We have the privilege of sharing with others what Jesus has done for us. We are ambassadors of the King of kings because of His grace and mercy, not because we are worthy of such a privilege.



## READ THE WORD

As we left Jesus in John 1:51, He had five disciples. Look briefly at John 2. Remember that Jesus said in John 1:43 that He wanted to go to Galilee. That is exactly where He headed—along with His five new disciples. You can see it there in John 2:2 where the disciples were going to the wedding at Cana with Jesus.

This may seem a bit odd to you, but this is where Jesus first called His disciples.

- ? **What other passage usually comes to mind when you think of calling the disciples?** *Most will likely identify the account on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.*

So let's go read about those encounters in Matthew 4:12–22. *Have someone read the passage aloud.*

Matthew 4:12–22

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? **What time marker is given in this passage?** *John the Baptist has already been thrown in prison. Since the first encounter with the five disciples in John 1 was while John was still preaching, this must be a later event.*
- ? **Who did Jesus see as he walked along the shore of the Sea of Galilee?** *He saw Peter and Andrew.*
- ? **Was this the first time they had met?** *No, the passages in John describe earlier encounters.*
- ? **What did He command them to do?** *He told them to follow Him and become fishers of men rather than casting their nets for fish in the sea.*
- ? **How did these brothers respond?** *They left their nets immediately and followed Him.*
- ? **Who did Jesus call next?** *James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were also fishermen.*
- ? **Who is this John?** *He is the author of the Gospel of John, the unnamed disciple from John 1 who was with Andrew, Peter, Nathanael, and Philip.*
- ? **Have we met James before?** *No, James was likely told of Jesus by his brother, John, and Peter and Andrew.*
- ? **How did these two respond to Jesus's call to follow Him?** *They also immediately dropped their nets and followed.*
- ? **The last connection here is to the call of Matthew. What do we learn about Matthew's calling in Matthew 9:9?** *Jesus told Matthew to follow Him, and Matthew arose and followed Jesus.*
- ? **What did Matthew do in response to following Jesus (refer to Luke 5:29)?** *He invited his friends, other tax collectors, to a feast at his home.*

Matthew 9:9–13

- ? **How did the Pharisees respond to seeing Jesus eat with this crowd of sinners?** *They were shocked that this teacher would eat with such a sinful group. We will examine their self-righteous attitudes in later lessons.*
- ? **What does Jesus's response to the Pharisees indicate He was intending to do as He ate with these sinners?** *He intended to call them to repentance—He is the physician who can heal them of their spiritual disease of sin.*

## Discover the Truth

When we stop and think carefully about the events described and try to connect them chronologically, we see a different picture of the calling of the first disciples. When Jesus called the four from the seashore, they had already been following Him off and on for some time. They had traveled with Him to Cana and then back to Jerusalem for the Passover (John 2:11–12), returning again to Capernaum. Although they are not mentioned, Philip and Nathanael likely joined them, and it was not long before Matthew was chosen by Jesus to follow the Messiah. We know from Matthew 4:23–25 that Jesus was preaching and healing in the area for some time, so Matthew had probably heard the teaching, and so when Jesus called to him, He gladly followed, forsaking his former life to serve the Messiah.

Most importantly, those who had followed Christ at His command were eager to tell others. Andrew told Peter. Philip told Nathanael. John told James. Matthew told his friends. These disciples went about the business of making other disciples. And that is the same joy we can find in calling others to follow Jesus.



## Applying God's Word

### WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

As we consider all of these encounters with Jesus, several things become very clear. Jesus knew who He was calling to follow Him. He called them by name and took them under His wing to teach and train them. This idea is affirmed at the end of Jesus's ministry when He reminds the 12 Apostles that He chose them and appointed them for the tasks He had given them (John 15:16). The same is true for us when we hear the call of the gospel message; we can know that when we look to Christ in repentant faith He will receive us as His disciples (John 6:37).

Another clear truth is that once these men were called by Jesus and became His disciples, they immediately sought to share that good news

with others. Those disciples went and made more disciples, and then those disciples made disciples, and on, and on it goes. Knowing they have found the Messiah, a true disciple can't help but tell others about their Savior and Teacher, calling them to follow Him, as well.

Through the making of disciples and the ongoing process of discipleship, the church has grown, and the gospel has spread throughout the world. The gospel has gone out to all nations just as Jesus had directed. But there is still much work to do. There are many who have not been called to follow Jesus and many who do not think they need to. It is our privilege as ambassadors of King Jesus to call others to follow Him.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

- ? We often refer to Jesus's command in Matthew 28 and Mark 16 as the Great Commission, but there was a commissioning before this. Jesus was commissioned by the Father to come to earth and initiate our rescue from sin. How does understanding what Jesus gave up and then endured to make you a disciple encourage you to share that good news with others? *When we consider what Jesus has done for us, calling us to Himself and dying for our sins, this can be a great encouragement for us to share with others. As we share the good news of the gospel, more and more people will become disciples and offer Jesus worship.*
- ? What is something you can give up that will free resources and/or time to share the good news of the King of kings? *Discuss various answers.*
- ? What is the difference between making a disciple and discipleship or discipling someone else? *In general, someone cannot be disciplined unless they are already a disciple. To become a disciple means to submit to Christ as Lord and Savior and to be baptized into Christ in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Once a person is born again and submitted to Christ's teaching, then the process of sanctification—becoming more like Him in thought and action—continues. This is the discipleship process where study of the Word and other spiritual disciplines lead to growth.*
- ? If you are a disciple of Jesus, what hinders you from telling others about His offer to free them from their sin? What can you do to begin overcoming this hesitation? *Discuss various answers, encouraging the students by reminding them that through the Holy Spirit and the truth of God's Word they can be equipped to share the gospel with others. Think of evangelism as something that you GET to do out of gratitude for your own salvation rather than something that we HAVE to do.*
- ? How can we use modern technology and social media to spread the gospel? *Discuss various answers.*





## MEMORY VERSE

**Philippians 2:8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.



## GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Thank God for giving us the opportunity to serve as His ambassadors.
- Praise God for His calling of the lost to follow the Good Shepherd.
- Ask God for boldness in proclaiming the good news of reconciliation through Christ.