



The Call

Bible Study: Taking the Next Step

Main Passage: Mark 1:14-20

Opening Thought

There is a difference between *thinking* about following Jesus and actually *moving* with Him.

In this passage, Jesus begins His ministry and calls His first disciples. What stands out is not how much they understood - but how quickly and willingly they responded.

Read the Passage

Take a moment to read **Mark 1:14-20** slowly.

What Do You Notice?

Jesus' message is clear:

- **"The time has come... repent and believe the good news"** (v.15)

His call is simple:

- **"Come, follow me"** (v.17)

The response of the first disciples is immediate:

- **"At once they left their nets and followed him"** (v.18)

These fishermen did not have full understanding. They had not seen miracles. They did not know where this would lead.

But they moved.

Key Insight

Discipleship is not about waiting until we feel ready - it is about responding when Jesus calls.

Following Jesus always involves movement:

- Leaving something behind
 - Trusting without full clarity
 - Taking a step before everything is worked out
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Supporting Scriptures

- **Luke 9:23**
"Take up your cross daily and follow me."
 - **James 1:22**
"Do not merely listen to the word... do what it says."
 - **Hebrews 11:8**
Abraham obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.
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Reflection Questions

Take time to sit with these honestly. You may want to pause between each one.

1. **If someone who knows you well were asked how your faith has changed in the last year, what would they say?**
 - Where is there visible growth?
 - Where might things have stayed the same?
2. **What is the one area of your life where you know God has been nudging you, but you have not moved?**
 - What has held you back?
 - Who or what might help you get over the obstacle?
 - Not all obstacles can be removed or overcome - but if God has been nudging you in a particular direction, trust that He can make a way - you just need to take a step.
 - If fear is holding you back, find a trusted friend to discuss it with and pray about it together.

3. When did you last do something in your faith that genuinely cost you something - time, comfort, money, or reputation?

- What does that reveal about the current state of your discipleship?

4. If a new believer followed your example for the next six months, where would they end up?

- Imagine them looking at your diary/calendar, bank account, friendships, your Bible, your phone.
- What would they prioritise?
- What would they learn about Jesus from your life?

5. What one step, if you were courageous enough to take it, would make the biggest difference to your journey with Jesus?

- Make it specific
 - Make it measurable
 - Make it something you can actually do
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Bringing It Together

The first disciples did not wait for clarity. They did not delay for a better time. They heard Jesus say, "Come, follow me" - and they responded immediately. That same invitation still stands.

Prayer

Take a moment to pray:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to make your next step clear
 - Ask for courage to act, not delay
 - Ask for a heart that responds quickly to Jesus
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Final Challenge

Don't leave this as reflection alone.

Name your next step.

Decide when you will take it.

Because discipleship does not grow through intention - it grows through action.