

When the Rabbi Says “Go”

Ray Vander Laan

1. Read Matthew 4:18-22. What were Peter, Andrew, James and John doing when Jesus called them to be his disciples?

What would have been their religious standing in the community? How do you think they must have felt when Jesus invited them to be his *talmidim* (disciples)?

2. Read Matthew 9:9. How unusual would it have been for a rabbi to call a tax collector to be his disciple?

What would have been Matthew’s status in the religious community? How do you think he must have felt when Jesus invited him to be his *talmid* (disciple)?

3. Read Luke 5:1-11. What was the lifestyle of Galilean fishermen? How did Peter respond when Jesus told them to throw out their nets one more time? What new goal in life did Jesus give to Peter and his companions?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. Consider the effects of God’s choice of “foolish” and “weak” things. Why does God choose unlikely people, and why is it difficult to believe that God can do great things through them?

How do God’s values, as reflected in this passage, influence how you perceive your worth in God’s eyes and your ability to be the disciple He has called you to be? Can you name some Bible characters that seemed to be unlikely people God would choose?

5. Read Jeremiah 9:23-24. What things are listed that people generally consider important? What qualities does the Lord consider important? How does this passage affect your way of looking at being a disciple?