

THE STORY



JESUS' MINISTRY BEGINS

John 1-4 & Mark 2:1-17

THE DROP-OUTS (John 1:35-51)

"The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah...' and he brought him to Jesus."

John 1:41-42

"Philip found Nathaniel and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth!'"

John 1:45

Following Jesus means _____ others _____.

Who are my Top 3?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

THE DISTINGUISHED & DESPICABLE (John 3:1-21 & 4:1-42)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

John 3:16-17

Following Jesus always _____ us _____.

THE DISCARDED & DESPISED (Mark 2:1-17)

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 2:17

Following Jesus requires we _____ our _____.

THE STORY

Sermon on September 25, 2022
Chapter 23 – Jesus’ Ministry Begins

Getting to Know Me

1. Who do you follow (celebrities, athletes, politicians, artists, bloggers, etc.)?

Digging Deeper

2. As you read Chapter 23 in *The Story*, what stood out to you about Jesus? Did anything about Jesus’ character or purpose hit you in a new way?
3. Read together John 1:35-42. Before following Jesus, Andrew followed John the Baptist (v. 35). What do you think it was about John the Baptist that made him a person to seek out and follow? Why do you think Andrew quickly switch to following Jesus? After Andrew spent a day with Jesus, he went and got his brother, Peter. Why do you think Peter came to Jesus?
4. Read together John 3:1-2. Why do you think Nicodemus came at night? What was he afraid of? Read John 3:16-21. What strikes you in these verses and how do they relate to Nicodemus coming to Jesus at night?
5. Nicodemus appears again in John 7:50 where he encourages the religious leaders to give Jesus a chance to speak without claiming faith in Him, and again in John

19:39-40 where he came forward to help bury Jesus. How would you summarize Nicodemus’ journey into faith that began by coming in the darkness? Where on this faith journey are you?

6. Read together John 4:25-26, 28-30, and 39-42. What is it about Jesus’ identity that is highlighted in each of these scenes? What must have happened for her to suddenly become a powerful witness to those people who previously ostracized her?
7. In this chapter of *The Story*, Jesus called the Drop-Outs, Distinguished, Despicable, Discarded, and Despised to follow him. What did it cost each person to follow Jesus and how does it encourage you to see people like *this* invited to follow Jesus?

Where Do I Go from Here?

8. Read Galatians 5:22-23. If following Jesus transformed you in these ways, how do you think your friends, family, children would respond? Would they follow you to Jesus?
9. Who are your Top 3 that you are praying will come to Jesus? How can you share Jesus with them this week?

Prayer

Write the names of three friends you want to come to know Jesus on an index card. Ask God to fill each of you with His Spirit. Ask Him to lead your conversations. Ask God to draw your friends to Himself through you.

“We exist to glorify God by guiding people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.”

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Following Jesus means bringing others along.

Who are my Top 3?

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- 2.
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John 3:16-17

Following Jesus always costs us something.

THE DISCARDED & DESPISED (Mark 2:1-17)

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 2:17

Following Jesus requires we recognize our need.