



24-30 January 2021 • Faith 24/7

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Do something different

Mark 1.14-20

In which, John's work is done, and Jesus' ministry begins in Galilee, a region where Jews and Gentiles lived. Jesus invites people to align their lives with the God whose rule is for all and whose time is now. He calls four fishermen to let go of other commitments to make this message their priority.

Now read **Mark 1.14-20** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

It is tempting to think that there must be a backstory here. Had the fishermen met Jesus before, and were just waiting for the nod to become his disciples? Had they been searching for the Messiah for some time? Mark sticks to the centre-point of the action: there came a moment when Jesus said, 'Follow me,' and they did.



What do you think about the idea that you are chosen by Jesus?



- View a film clip of sunset at the Sea of Galilee and imagine yourself there, on the shore: youtu.be/PJTvFMtWh98
- Now imagine that you are one of the fishermen called by Jesus. How do you feel? What thoughts do you have when he says, 'Follow me'? Does this show you something about yourself?
- In a household, you could act out the scene – freeze the action at various points and discuss, 'What is this person feeling now?'
- Alternatively, imagine the scene in a contemporary context – someone calls your name and you look over your shoulder...

Plant

You will need: some kitchen paper, a jam jar, and a seed that will germinate.

- Jesus described his own calling as being like a seed (see John 12.24).
- Make the kitchen paper damp and roll it into a tube. Place it inside the jam jar. Slide the seed between the paper and the glass. Put the jar somewhere warm and light and check it regularly to keep the paper damp. Watch for growth.
- The seed must split for the new life to start. Think about any endings you have experienced that have also been new beginnings.

DAILY PRAYER

I love you, Lord Jesus.
Grant that I may always follow you,
wherever the path of my life takes me. **Amen.**

- You might also find it helpful to reflect on the Methodist Covenant Prayer.

www.rootsontheweb.com/content/PDFs/346041/Methodist_Covenant_Prayer_study.pdf



Read the poem 'The Summer Day' by Mary Oliver: www.loc.gov/poetry/180/133.html Notice how she finds meaning and wonder by looking very closely at a grasshopper. Take a walk and find something small and marvellous to look at – perhaps a leaf, a seed head or an insect. Allow wonder to fill your thoughts. Pray about this marvel that God has made. Pray about yourself and what you are going to do with your one wild and precious life.

DISCOVER

- The disciples caught fish; Jesus calls them to catch people – same process, different focus! Find the process that is your gift, rather than always focussing on just one way to express it. Describe what you do with a verb rather than a title – e.g. 'bring joy to others' rather than 'screen writer' or 'comedian'.
- These questions may help you discern your core gift: When do you feel most alive? What would most people who know you describe as your key quality? Is there something that you have been doing with ease your whole life?
- Children can discover their core gift too. Learn more here www.coregift.org/gift-library/#video, and here is a questionnaire for children.

www.coregift.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/AltGiftQuestionsChildren.pdf



Just a thought...

This week our Gospel story is The Wedding at Cana...John chapter 2 verses 1-11

Unlike the other three Gospels, John has no description of the last supper, yet he gives the only account of the Cana wedding. The plentiful good wine taken together with the multiplying of the bread at the feeding of the 5,000 (John 6.1-14) could suggest that John is particularly struck by the way God offers us abundant life through Jesus. How are we to respond to the offering of life in its fullness? Is our sharing of communion a sign of God's abundant goodness?

In Isaiah 62.4-5 and Revelation 19.9, a wedding symbolises the days of the Messiah's coming, while at Cana the disciples first recognise the Messiah's glory. Amos 9.13-14 says of the last days that '...the mountains will drip sweet wine...'. Is the abundant wine at Cana not solely about God's generosity, but also a reminder that the Messiah is here? How should we respond to the presence of the Messiah?

100 Club

We are preparing for the 2021 monthly draws! A big 'thank you' to those who have renewed or just joined. Membership costs £1 per number per month and we hold monthly draws (£12 annual subscription). Half the money is given in prizes and half goes to support our church - so the more members, the greater the prizes! (Currently £15 and £5 per month). If you missed renewing, would like to join or check your numbers, please contact Julia Tolley (353192) or Penny (351468).

Don't forget to check out our daily reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity available on our YouTube channel now.

Daily Readings for week commencing 25 th January 2021		
Monday	Ezekiel 3: 22-end	Philippians 3: 1-14
Tuesday	Hosea 4: 1-16	1 Corinthians 10: 1-13
Wednesday	Hosea 5: 1-7	1 Corinthians 10: 14-11:1
Thursday	Hosea 5: 8-6:6	1 Corinthians 11: 2-16
Friday	Hosea 6:7 – 7:2	1 Corinthians 11: 17-end
Saturday	Hosea 8	1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

Pray for those in need...Sally, Zena, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy Lily, Mandy and Joyce. **Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...especially William, Bertha, Frederick and John.**