

St Thomas Home Group Study

January 2023 - Week 4

Follow Me and I will make you
fishers of people.

Read the study passage: Matthew 4:12-23

The Study

- Q1 Where did Jesus begin his ministry and why? What were the circumstances of the people?
- Q2 Why did Matthew quote from the Old Testament? How is Jesus a great light to those in darkness? (See also Isaiah 9:1-2)
- Q3 What was Jesus' message? What is the difference between John the Baptist (3:2) and Jesus (5:17) speaking these words?
- Q4 Whom did Jesus call as his first disciples and how? What command and promise did Jesus give them? Does this apply equally to us?
- Q5 Do you think that the first disciples just suddenly decide to follow a stranger? If not, why would they follow Jesus?
- Q6 How did Peter and Andrew respond to Jesus' call? How was James' and John's call similar yet different? What do we learn here about Jesus' calling and how to respond to it?
- Q7 What did Jesus do throughout Galilee? What does this show about the kingdom?

How do I relate to this story?

- Q8 Have you ever felt 'called' by Jesus?
- Q9 What does 'fishing for people' look like



Jesus calls the first disciples.

Background

In Matthew 4:12 Jesus withdraws to safety in Capernaum in Galilee following John the Baptist's arrest for criticising Herod for his relationship with his sister-in-law. (see Matt 14:3-4)

Matthew 4:12 - 17 tells us of Jesus' travel and ministry in Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee. This fulfils an ancient prophecy about the Messiah found in Isaiah 9:1 - 2. The scriptures promised a great light would dawn in the region once occupied by the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali, near the Sea of Galilee.

In 4:17 Jesus launches his own mission as he too begins to proclaim: '*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near*'. (4:17). He uses the identical words to those used by John (see 3:2). As Jesus begins his ministry, this is to be an era of newness and life and the power of God's loving and restoring rule are at work in Israel.

Matthew regularly draws our attention to the Old Testament, explaining how and where OT prophesies are being, or have been, fulfilled through Jesus' ministry.

