



“This is the Story...”

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Week 36: Come Follow and Come See

Luke 5:1-11; 5:27-28; 6:12-16

Intro Video: <https://youtu.be/GAhL7pbjO88>

Review the big story: God created the cosmos and humans and called it all good. We were created to live in harmony, but sometimes we miss the mark. All of humanity missed the mark, and they had to live with the consequences, but God stuck with them and continued to love them. Then God called a family to be a blessing to the whole earth. Like the humans before them, the generations of this family often missed the mark, but God was faithful.

When the people became slaves in Egypt, God raised up Moses to be their leader. God delivered them from slavery. In the wilderness, they learned to be a people of God, trusting in God's provision, living out God's commandments, and wrestling with the law in shalom community. As they prepared to go into the promised land, they were given the *shema*, words of love to keep with their whole beings. God brought the people into the promised land. There they continued to miss the mark, and God sent judges to guide them.

God raised up prophets, but the people demanded a king. Kings continued to miss the mark, and the kingdom divided into the north and south. God stuck with the people through leaders and prophets, and continued to call the people back to God, even as first the northern, and then the southern kingdom fell to invading powers. Some of the people were sent into exile, and some were left in the ruins of the kingdom. Through prophets and everyday people, God continued to stick with the scattered people and to reveal that God is so much bigger than they imagined. The people were finally able to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild the temple.

As we begin the story of the New Testament, Rome is the power in charge and the people of God are waiting for a Messiah. This Messiah is announced, first with a surprising genealogy, then through an angel to Mary. Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, and there, Jesus was born, proclaimed by angels, visited by shepherds, blessed by Simeon and Anna, and sought by magi. When Jesus's life was in danger, his parents fled with him to Egypt, where they remained as refugees until it was safe for them to return and settle in Nazareth. As a child in Nazareth, Jesus grew up in the wisdom of God. His cousin John went before him, preparing the way, and when Jesus was ready to begin his ministry, he came to John to be baptized and was proclaimed by God.

- **Key verses:** Luke 5:10b-11; Luke 6:13-16

Tell the story: Jesus called a community of people to walk with him in his ministry. He called them from many occupations and walks of life. When Jesus invited them, they left everything and followed him.

- Read Luke 5:1-11; 5:27-28; 6:12-16
- Read page 184 in the *Shine On* story Bible.

Prime the pump:

- **Things to notice:**

- If you're familiar with this story, it may sound a little strange. We often combine this story as told in Matthew, Mark and Luke. Read the other versions of the story (Mark 1:16-45; John 1:35-51; and Matthew 4:18-22) and notice similarities and differences.
- Notice what Simon calls Jesus in verse 5. This seems to be Luke's version of "Teacher," which is more commonly used in the other gospels.
- 12 apostles...hmm, what does this number remind you of?
- Elsewhere in the gospels, we hear about other disciples, some of whom were women. These twelve play a unique role; they are an inner circle, but there were others as well.

- **Background information:**

- Mappers! The lake referred to in 5:1 is the Sea of Galilee. It's referred to in Numbers 34:11 as one of the eastern boundaries of the promised land (in the Old Testament, it's called the Sea of Chinnereth).
- Levi (also known as Matthew) is a tax collector. This was a complicated job with a lot of stigma. They were seen as collaborators with Romans by their fellow Jews, and they basically made their living by cheating their people.
- Apostle is a Greek word that means "agent or emissary." The Hebrew equivalent would mean someone who so fully represented the sender that it was as if they were the person themselves. (Levine, Amy-Jill and Marc Zvi Brettler, Eds, 2017. *The Jewish Annotated New Testament, 2nd Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press, pg 125.)
- What does "Iscaiot" mean? Scholars aren't sure. It may mean he's from a certain Judean village (making him the only Judean in the bunch). Or it might derive a word that means "false one." Neither of these options is really a perfect match! (Levine, Amy-Jill and Marc Zvi Brettler, Eds, 2017. *The Jewish Annotated New Testament, 2nd Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press, pg 125.)

- **Conversation starters:**

- "Word of God" in 5:1 means Torah as interpreted by Jesus. We often only use that term to describe scripture. What do you think of this?
- Why does Simon Peter react to the miracle by confessing his sins?
- What do you think it meant to "leave everything"?

Microsong: "Come Follow and Come See" (Listen: <https://youtu.be/pelZNA4S5Q0>)

Jesus calls disciples to be with him in the work he's doing, invites them to come follow and come see. Healing, teaching, seeing who they are, he tells them they also will see what Jacob saw; this ladder, the heavens open up. Then, now and always. God is one, only God.

Sing the big song: (Listen: <https://youtu.be/Sopx3cxiglo>)

This is the story of how it all began. God made matter, and chaos shattered.
Eve and Adam, they tried to hide. The world got violent and God replied with a mark and a flood
and a rainbow sign, God's love written on skin and sky,
And then God called a family to be a blessing to the earth, oh ohhhh
A mother and her favorite son wrestle for the blessing, another son becomes a slave, the land is
saved from famine.
God's family grows. Egypt oppresses. They groan to God and God sends Moses.
Ten strange signs say "Please release them!" By the sea God saves them. Oh ohhh.
The people complain and God rains bread. Daily food and ten new rules.
Five sisters come and ask for land. God says "Yes, amend the law!"
*Moses says, "In your new life across the Jordan, love God with your whole heart and with all your
being, and your strength, now listen: God is One, only God! God is One, only God!"*
Cross over Jordan, stories and stones. Circuits and shouts and the walls come down.
God sends judges like Deborah and the land has rest.
Ruth's worth more than seven sons; Redeem the lost with steadfast love.
Corruption in the temple then God sends Samuel.
God gives them a prophet, they ask for a king. Does God need a temple? A wise king forgets.
And when a bully rules the land, the nation tears apart and loses David's heart...
A widow's gift and a prophet's cry. God brings life in desperate times.
Josiah reads this misplaced scroll. He turns to God wholeheartedly like David did. In his time.
God gives Jeremiah a picture of God's ruined family...
Is there any hope left, is there any hope left, is there any hope left for you, Jerusalem?
Any hope? Any hope left? Is there any hope left for you?
By the streams of Babylon, how can we sing when you are gone, Jerusalem...
I'm in a valley of human bones. These bones are Israel, God's breath is hope.
Haman plans death for Esther's exiles. She risks her life so they might survive.
Finally God's family rebuilds the temple in Jerusalem. God plunges them into a sea of joy and
celebration of Only God. God is One, Only God.
Comfort to Jerusalem, your warfare finally ceases.
Matthew lists these generations, Abraham to Jesus
The angel says, "You'll have a son and God will give him David's throne." Mary says, "God looked
at me, now I'm the luckiest person around.
Mary, now pregnant fiancé, makes a grueling journey.
She has her baby, shepherds see angels declaring God's glory and peace among people.
The Spirit sends shepherds and elders and prophets to tell those who wait their Messiah has
come.
Herod gets nervous, the Magi find Jesus. They hide their discovery and hurry back home...
Once again an angel comes to Joseph -- so they make good their escape, oohh.
Jesus in the temple, astonishing the crowd. Jesus with his parents. Jesus growing up.
Down by the Jordan with the prophet John, Jesus asks to be baptized. And the skies are opened.
A dove descends. A voice from heaven says, "This is my son, the son I love. I'm pleased
with him."
Jesus calls disciples to be with him in the work he's doing. Ohhh oohhh.
God loves every one of us, it's true. And God loves the universe.

Go do your household project!