

# **Peter and Andrew Meet Jesus**

John 1:35-42



## **Jesus Begins His Ministry**

The disciple of John the Baptist who is unnamed in this passage was likely John, the author of this Gospel. This unnamed disciple and Andrew had been following John the Baptist, but at this point they began to follow Jesus. John the Baptist didn't try to persuade the two to stay with him. He knew his place and was ready for his disciples to transfer their allegiance to Jesus.

#### Jesus Gives an Invitation

The first of Jesus' words that are recorded by John are found in John 1:38: "What do you want?" he asked John's disciples. Jesus' question is significant: He knew these men were looking for something, not really for someone. They responded to Jesus with their own question: "Where are you staying?" On the surface this question may have indicated that they needed to know where Jesus lived if they were to come to him for teaching. Jesus' response to that question didn't give them the answer they may have wanted; it was an immediate invitation for them to follow and learn from him. He didn't say, "Come tomorrow," or "I'll meet you at the boat dock." Instead he immediately opened up himself and the place he was staying to these first two disciples.

# Jesus Changes Lives

After spending a day with Jesus, Andrew knew he had found something special—his first response was to find his brother Simon and tell him he'd found the Messiah. In characteristic fashion, Simon responded quickly and went with Andrew to meet Jesus.

For Jesus, the Son of God, it took only one look at Simon to know who he was and who he was to become. So he gave Simon a new name, Peter, which means "rock." At that moment and throughout

Jesus' earthly ministry, Peter displayed little of the strength and stability of a rock, however. He was impulsive and impetuous, and in his haste, he often made bad decisions. So the name that Jesus gave Peter was not based on his life up to that point, but on who Jesus knew Peter would become as a result of following Jesus. When Peter got to know Jesus, his life changed. He eventually became a new person; empowered by his faith in Christ, he dedicated his life to spreading the word about Jesus to the world.

#### The Jesus Connection

Jesus knows us even better than we know ourselves. Thank Jesus not only for being your Savior but also for being your friend!

Think about the time you first met Jesus. How have you grown closer to him since then? What room for growth do you still see in your friendship with him? Over the next week, ask God to help you grow closer to Jesus. You can write your prayer here.

Adult

Lesson 7

Winter Quarter

John 1:35-42

► Bible Point—Jesus is our friend.

Key Verse—"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).



# **Daily Challenges**

Choose one or more of these activities to do this week.

- Write down all the ways you can think of that Jesus shows his love to you as a friend. As you write, thank Jesus for each of those ways. Then share what you've learned with someone else.
- Take time to just listen to someone this week as a friend. Ask questions, listen carefully to that person, and pray for him or her. Consider how that friendship can show you how to grow in your friendship with Jesus.
- Find a practical way to grow more "rock-like" in your friendship with Jesus.

# Through the Week

Use the following passages to explore additional biblical insights about how Jesus changes people's lives.

### Monday-Mark 1:16-18

In what ways are you following Jesus?

## **Tuesday—Philippians 3:8**

What have you gained by knowing Jesus?

### Wednesday-2 Corinthians 2:14

■ Where can you spread "the fragrance of the knowledge" of Jesus?

#### Thursday—2 Corinthians 4:6

How can you let Jesus' light shine through you?

#### Friday—2 Peter 3:18

■ What are some things you can do to grow in your knowledge of Jesus?

### Saturday—1 John 5:13

How do you know you have eternal life?

## **Talk Topics**

- Talk about changes you've noticed in the seasons. Then talk about how God brings about change in people's lives as well as in the seasons.
- Talk about how a friendship with God changes us over time.
- Talk about what you do each day to grow your friendships. What do you do each day to grow your friendship with God?
- Talk about changes you could make in your priorities or schedules to spend more time together strengthening your friendships with Jesus and others.

