



LESSON 1 // START NOW

Big Idea: Jesus sees us and calls us to follow Him, just as He called His first disciples when He saw them by the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 4:18-22). Our response should be to take advantage of the moment and say “yes” immediately to His call, commit to following Him consistently and expect Him to do great things in and through our lives.

Matthew 4:18-22 (NIV) *As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.*

Start Talking:

What does it mean to “follow Jesus” in your life?

Start Thinking:

Read Psalm 95:6-8. What do these verses tell you about the importance of “today”—taking advantage of the moment Jesus is giving you right now to respond to Him?

Read Luke 9:23. What does it mean to take up your cross “daily” as a disciple of Jesus? What difference should this make in how you live?

Read Colossians 2:6-7. What are some practical ways that you can be consistently “rooted,” “built up” and “strengthened” in your walk with the Lord?

Read John 10:10, John 16:33 and Hebrews 11:6. What kind of life should you expect from Jesus as you follow Him?

Start Praying:

Pray for the faith and courage to respond today to Jesus’ call to become a better, more committed follower of Him.

Start Doing:

Begin to actively take stock of your thoughts and attitudes that need to be “put to death” (Colossians 3:5-10) as you take up your cross and follow Jesus each day.

This is a vital part of a consistent commitment to live for Him and not for yourself. The Apostle Paul tells us to “take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5), making it clear that winning the battle for godly thinking is a key to living for Jesus.