

Study Guide

Matthew 4:12-25

When Jesus begins his ministry he preaches exactly the same message John the Baptist preached before him (compare Matt. 4:17 and 3:2). Why do you think Jesus does this? What does it teach you about how Jesus views his own ministry?

There are only 2 commands Jesus gives us in this passage: “repent” (v.17) and “follow me” (v.19). What do these commands mean? And is there a relationship between the two?

In vv. 23-25 we learn that Jesus not only taught and preached, he also healed all those who were ill. Why do you think Jesus healed in addition to teaching and preaching?

The first disciples had to leave their careers, property and even family to follow Jesus. Have you ever had to leave something or someone in order to follow him? Is there anything you think Jesus may be asking you to leave now in order to follow him?

Jesus promised the first disciples that if they followed him, they would become “fishers of people.” What does this mean? Why do you think it was an attractive promise to the first disciples? Is it attractive to you?

If you wanted to learn more about what it means to follow Jesus, how would you do it? Is there anything you have already learned that you feel God is asking you to do?

Take some time to pray asking God to show you those things from which you need to turn away in repentance and what a step forward in following him looks like for you at this time in your life. Take as much time as you need and write down what you hear. Ask God for the power to follow through and put what you've written in a place where it will remind you of God's word to you.