

Mark 1:16-20 and Luke 14:25-33 International Bible Lesson Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the *International Bible Lesson Study Guide*, which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. Do you think Simon and Andrew, and James and John, knew anything about Jesus before Jesus called them to follow Him? Give a reason for your answer.

Yes. I think they met Jesus through John the Baptist’s ministry and Jesus gave them time to learn more about Him from Him and others before calling them to follow Him. Jesus wanted His disciples to count the cost before following Him as disciples; therefore, I do not believe He would have wanted them to blindly follow Him just because He called them. I think they experienced Jesus as their King and felt His authority as their King.

2. What are some of the qualities of a fisherman’s occupation that would help Simon, Andrew, James, and John be good at fishing for people?

Patience, hard work, and being willing to spend long hours (all night if necessary) to succeed in catching fish. They had partnership experience from working with their fathers and other families in business. They were

providing a real service to people who needed fish to eat. They knew how to meet at least some of the material needs of people, and they would learn how to meet the spiritual needs of people as they followed Jesus.

3. What are some of the reasons that you can think of for great crowds of people following Jesus? Why do you think some people, even some great crowds, follow Jesus today?

They liked the blessings of food and healings. They liked the fact that He taught with more authority than their religious leaders. They thought He might overthrow their Roman oppressors. Today, many people follow Jesus for personal benefit rather than to serve others as one of His disciples.

4. Why do you think Jesus' true disciples obey Him immediately? What might it indicate when someone who calls himself a disciple of Jesus consistently refuses to obey Jesus' commands in the Bible?

They know Jesus is the great King, the Son of God, and they want to be His faithful servants and friends in the Kingdom of God. They know that as their King, Jesus deserves being obeyed immediately and Jesus expects immediate obedience (as any employer would). He is a liar and a hypocrite.

5. Have you counted the cost of becoming and being one of Jesus' true disciples? Give a reason for your answer.

Yes. I like to help others learn more about Jesus and the Bible and that takes time away from doing other less important endeavors.

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