

Matthew 4:12-22

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. When and why did Jesus begin His ministry in Galilee?

He began after John the Baptist was arrested and to fulfill the prediction of the prophet Isaiah.

2. Do you think beginning a ministry in Galilee would be easy or difficult? Give a reason for your answer.

On the one hand, it could be easy because some of those living in darkness would see a great light (a great contrast between good and evil) and they would be drawn to the light. On the other hand, it could be difficult, because almost immediately those who preferred living in the dark and doing evil would oppose the light and those drawn to the light. As happened to John the Baptist when King Herod arrested him and later beheaded him.

3. Do you think Peter, Andrew, James, and John knew much about Jesus when He called them to follow Him? Why or why not?

Yes. Because prior to the arrest of John the Baptist, he introduced Peter and Andrew to Jesus who went to learn from Jesus.

4. Why do you think Jesus called some fishermen to follow Him?

The ones he chose knew how to work together with others as partners and that would help them be good disciples and work together with the other disciples. They knew how to meet the needs of others and sell to others what they needed. This, too, would help them know how to tell others about Jesus and how Jesus was the Savior of the world.

5. How was Jesus' preaching like John's preaching? How is preaching different from their preaching today?

Both preached repentance for sins. John preached to prepare people for Jesus' coming as the Messiah. Jesus preached to prepare people to live in the Kingdom of God with Him as the long-awaited Messiah (King). They both emphasized repentance along with faith in God.

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