

# JESUS CALLS HIS DISCIPLES

*Ignatian Meditation Guides by Bill Gaultiere*

## Introduction to Ignatian Meditation

In Ignatius' 16th century approach to Scripture instead of analyzing a text, you use your senses to imagine yourself as a character in the story. Then you have a short, personal conversation with the Lord. Each reading is guided by a focus question below. In a group context follow the leader's instructions on what to share and be sure to protect people's confidentiality.

## Background to the Text

This Gospel reading in *The Spiritual Exercises* of Ignatius is in Week Two which focuses on following Jesus Christ. Mark indicates that Jesus waited until John the Baptist was put in prison before proclaiming his Gospel for everyone to hear. Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John—two pairs of brothers who grew up together—were among Jesus' eager listeners. One day Jesus was walking by the lake and saw the young fishermen at work. When he called them to become his disciples they jumped at the chance, leaving their parents and business behind.

## Ask For the Grace

Lord Jesus, I desire the grace to know you more intimately, to love you more intensely, and to follow you more closely.

## Imagine Scripture: Mark 1

14-15 After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God: "Time's up! God's kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message."

16-18 Passing along the beach of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew net-fishing. Fishing was their regular work. Jesus said to them, "Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass." They didn't ask questions. They dropped their nets and followed.

19-20 A dozen yards or so down the beach, he saw the brothers James and John, Zebedee's sons. They were in the boat, mending their fishnets. Right off, he made the same offer. Immediately, they left their father Zebedee, the boat, and the hired hands, and followed (MSG).

## Prayer / Journaling / Soul Talk Prompts

1. Visualize yourself in the Gospel. Don't seek intellectual insights—stay with the imagery. Use your senses to see, touch, feel, and hear. What part of the story are you drawn to? Which character do you identify with or are you a bystander?
2. Experience the story in the role of the character God led you to. Then talk with the Lord. What do you feel? How does this relate to something in your life today? What is God saying to you?