

Word Alive – Week 6 Handout

Matthew 4:12–25

From Ordinary to Called

Key Theme

Jesus begins His public ministry by fulfilling prophecy, proclaiming the Kingdom of Heaven, and calling ordinary people to become His disciples.

Key Truth: God delights in calling ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary purposes.

Matthew 4:12–17

Jesus Begins His Ministry

Key Observations

- Jesus leaves Nazareth after John the Baptist is imprisoned.
- His movement was intentional, not random.
- He begins His ministry in Galilee.
- Matthew once again points to fulfilled prophecy to prove Jesus is the promised Messiah.

Old Testament Fulfillment

Isaiah 9:1–2

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light..."

Matthew shows that Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.

About Galilee

Galilee was:

- Ethnically diverse
- Often looked down upon by Judeans
- Spiritually hungry
- Populated by hardworking, courageous people

- The primary location of Jesus' public ministry

Why is this important?

God chose an overlooked region to begin changing the world.

Matthew 4:17

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Notice

Jesus preached the same message as John the Baptist.

Repentance prepares hearts for the King.

Matthew 4:18–20

The Calling of Peter and Andrew

Jesus calls two ordinary fishermen.

They immediately leave their nets to follow Him.

Remember

Peter and Andrew had previously followed John the Baptist before returning to fishing.

Jesus met them in the middle of ordinary work.

Personal Reflection

Where is Jesus inviting me to follow Him more completely?

Matthew 4:21–22

James and John

Jesus calls another pair of brothers.

They leave:

- Their boat
- Their livelihood
- Their father

...to follow Jesus immediately.

Consider

Following Jesus often requires leaving something familiar behind.

For Parents

Sometimes following Jesus means trusting Him with the people we love most.

Faith often requires surrender.

Matthew 4:23–25

Jesus' Ministry Expands

Jesus continually:

- Teaches
- Preaches
- Heals

His ministry demonstrates both truth and compassion.

Key Verse

Matthew 4:23

"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people."

Try this: Memorize this verse. 🙌

This verse beautifully summarizes Jesus' earthly ministry.

Becoming a Disciple

In Jesus' day, disciples sought to imitate every part of their rabbi's life. **As followers of Christ, our goal is the same.**

We learn to:

- Walk like Jesus
 - Love like Jesus
 - Serve like Jesus
 - Pray like Jesus
 - Obey like Jesus
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Key Takeaways

- ✓ Jesus always moves with purpose.
 - ✓ God's plans often begin in overlooked places.
 - ✓ Jesus calls ordinary people.
 - ✓ Following Jesus requires immediate obedience.
 - ✓ Every believer is called to become a disciple who makes disciples.
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Cross References

Isaiah 9:1–2

Mark 1:14–20

Luke 4:14–15

Luke 5:1–11

John 1:35–42

Reflection Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus chose Galilee as the place to begin His ministry?

2. What does Peter and Andrew's immediate response teach us about following Jesus?

3. Is there an area where Jesus is asking you to leave your "nets" behind?

4. How can you more intentionally model your life after Jesus this week?

Memory Verse

Matthew 4:19

"Come, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

This Week's Challenge

Spend time reading the parallel accounts found in:

- Mark 1:14–20
- Luke 5:1–11
- John 1:35–42

Notice the additional details each Gospel writer includes and how together they give a fuller picture of Jesus' calling of His first disciples.

Prayer

"Lord, thank You for calling ordinary people into Your extraordinary Kingdom. Give me the courage to leave behind whatever keeps me from fully following You. Teach me to walk in Your footsteps, obey Your voice, and become the disciple You have called me to be. Amen."