

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH 2023

30 APRIL



Sermon outline – ‘Footprints’

Scripture – Mark 1:16-20, NLT

One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed him.

A little farther up the shore Jesus saw Zebedee’s sons, James and John, in a boat repairing their nets. He called them at once, and they also followed him, leaving their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired men.

Introduction

Share a story about being interrupted in a busy moment.

This is a story of interruption. Simon and Andrew had just thrown their net into the water, James and John were draped in the nets they were repairing, and Jesus interrupted. He stepped into the middle of their lives and turned things upside down.

How did the men respond to the interruption? Amazingly, they seem to have immediately set aside their lives and followed Jesus. They put down their nets, left behind their boats and exited the family business, to follow Jesus. They literally followed in his footsteps. They worked together, travelled together, ate together, partied together and prayed together.

What does it mean for you today to follow in the footsteps of Jesus?

1. Listening

Jesus calls each of us to follow him and be his disciples.

Share about an experience you have had of hearing Jesus calling to you.

Jesus calls us to follow him, but he doesn’t just call once then depend on us to follow and stay on track. If we are listening, we will find that Jesus calls us often, sometimes many times a day.

What is the first time you recall hearing the voice of Jesus calling you to follow him?

When did you most recently hear his call?

How are you making spaces in your life to listen for his voice?

2. Learning

Job 23:11, “I’ve followed him closely, my feet in his footprints” (The Message).

The first disciples of Jesus were able to literally follow in his footsteps. And they did. They followed him closely, learning to walk, talk, think and live like Jesus. It’s not quite that simple for us 2000 years later. But Jesus left footprints behind. He set an example for us to follow.

Psalms 119:15 says, “I will study your teachings and follow your footsteps” (CEV).

Share one way that you learn about Jesus and his ways.

Sometimes we learn things without much effort. We discover things throughout the course of our day. More often, we need to put in a little effort to learn and grow.

How do you learn and grow as a disciple?

- **Scripture** – *How do you use the Bible to learn about Jesus?*
- **Songs** – *Is there a song that helps you to understand more about Jesus?*
- **Books and podcasts** – *Which authors or speakers do you connect with when learning about how to live as a disciple of Jesus?*
- **Websites, apps and social media** – *How does technology help you to learn more about Jesus?*
- **Teachers and role models** – *Which people have shown you an example of how to live like Jesus?*
- **Other** – *Are there other ways that you learn and grow as a disciple?*

What have you learnt as you follow in the footsteps of Jesus?

3. Leading

Max Lucado says, “In our faith we follow in someone’s steps. In our faith we leave footprints to guide others. It’s the principle of discipleship.”

The 12 disciples of Jesus went on to spread his teaching far and wide. After his death, they continued to set an example and lead others in the ways of Jesus.

As disciples of Jesus, we follow, and we lead.

If someone is following in your footsteps, will that pathway lead them to Jesus?

On this International Day of Children and Youth, what is the example that you are leaving for others to follow?



Conclusion

When Jesus interrupts your life with his call, what does it look like for you to follow in his footsteps?

Read Mark 1:16-20.

When Jesus called, the disciples set everything aside and followed him. They followed as closely as they could in the footsteps of Jesus.

How are you following in the footsteps of Jesus?

How is God challenging you through this story today?

How is Jesus inviting you to respond?