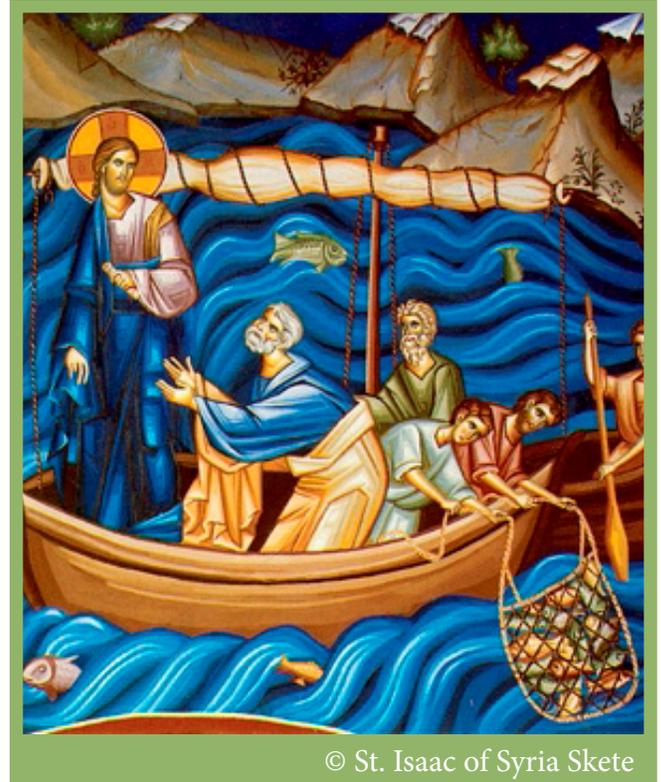


FAMILY GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 4:18-23

In this Gospel account, we hear how the first disciples were called. It is interesting to note the occupation of those earliest chosen apostles by Jesus Christ. He does not gather men who are necessarily well versed in scripture and law or of high standing in the temple. Rather, He chooses simple fishermen who likely lacked any formal education. Jesus is not looking for perfect people to serve Him but rather He chooses the unlikely to be made perfect through Him. His call to “follow Me” is not just meant for the early disciples, but for all Christians of every time and place.



For Consideration

- What is happening in this Gospel lesson?
- What do you think Jesus means when He said, “I will make you fishers of men”?
- What does this Gospel passage mean for our lives?

TO DO TOGETHER

Follow the Leader

Take the family outside for a game of Follow the Leader. Give everyone a chance to be the leader and let them be creative. Make sure, however, to set up boundaries and safety parameters—especially for young children. Make sure that everyone following the leader is working to imitate their actions not just their directions. When you are done, read the Gospel passage again and discuss what we should look like if we are following Jesus.

Who Will Deny Me

Get several copies of different magazines that your teenagers read. As a family, cut out examples of people that modern culture holds up as role models. Paste these on one half of a poster board and write the attributes that they are being admired for. On the other half of the poster board cut out icons of Jesus, the Virgin Mary and the Saints printed from various websites. Write down the attributes that they are being admired for. How do the two groupings differ? How does this make it difficult to emulate Christ when society sends us such a different message of how we should act?

Praying With Our Saints

Plan a family trip to go fishing. Enjoy the time together! At the end of the day talk about the patience that it takes to be a fisherman. Discuss how this would translate to the Apostles as “fishers of men.” Discuss ways we can patiently witness our faith by being “fishers of men”?

CLOSING PRAYER

Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made fishermen all-wise, sending upon them the Holy Spirit and, through them, netting the world. O Loving One, glory to You.

-Apolytikion of Pentecost

FINAL THOUGHT

The dismissal, “Let us go forth in peace,” sends each believer out on a mission to the world in which he or she lives and works to witness to others—not through words—but by what they are.

-Ion Bria

