



# HEAVEN *To* EARTH

CALLING OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES

## *Matthew 4 (ESV)*

*12 Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. 13 And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 15 “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—16 the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”*

## *Matthew 4 (ESV)*

*17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” 18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him.*

## *Matthew 4 (ESV)*

*21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. 23 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.*

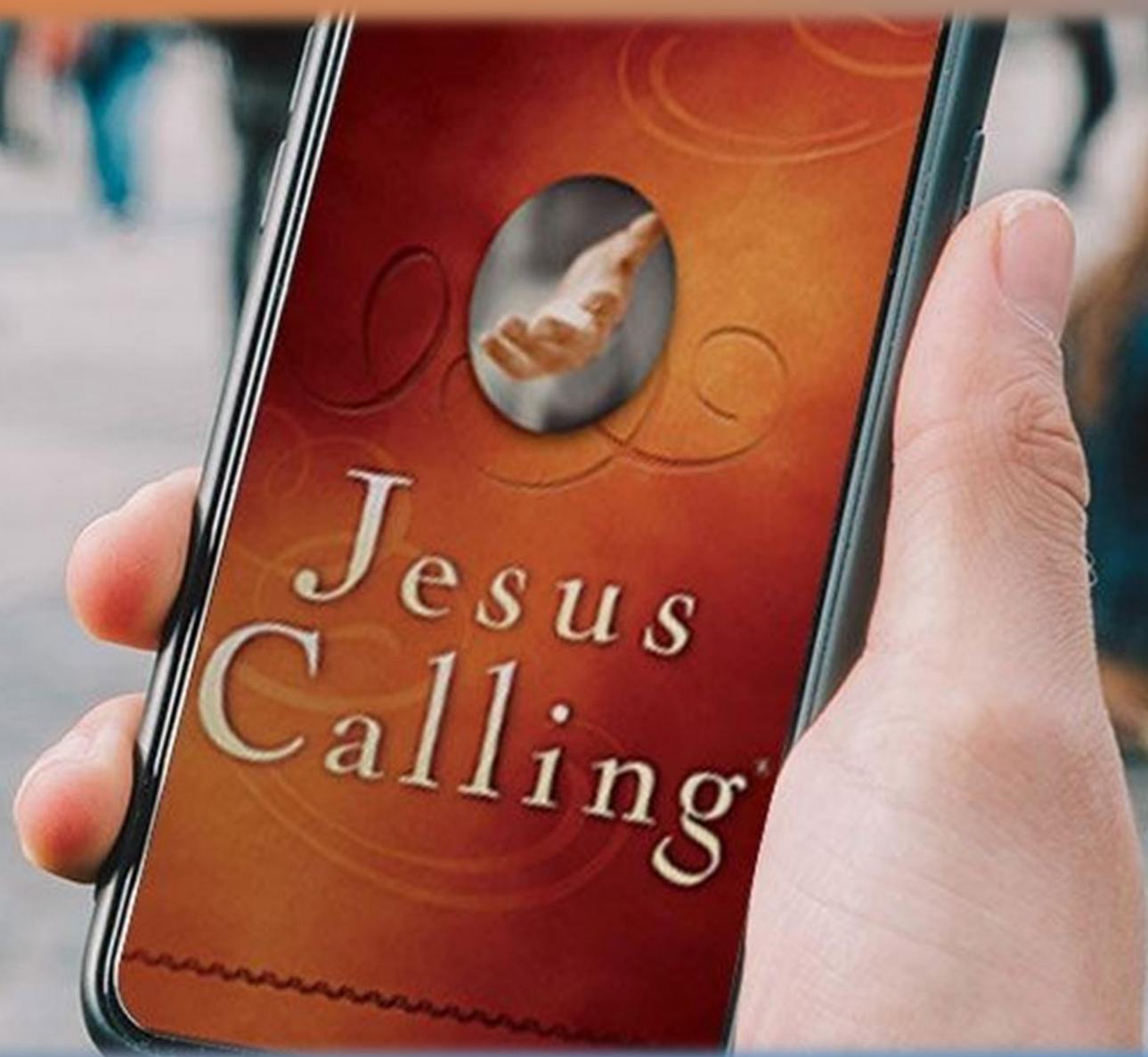
## *Matthew 4 (ESV)*

*24 So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. 25 And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.*

## Big Idea

Bringing Heaven to earth.  
“The gospel of the kingdom” is what Jesus brought...  
not just an escape plan.





## Jesus is Calling

- Jesus sees us fully - our heart, our situation, our fears & our potential. (Matthew 4:18)
- Jesus sees beyond our present condition & into what we can become when we follow Him. (Matthew 4:19)
- Jesus calls ordinary people, not the “best and brightest,” but those the world often overlooks. (Matthew 4:18–19)
- Jesus’ call is personal - “Follow Me,” not a system, a denomination, or a feeling. (Matthew 4:19)



## Jesus is Calling

- Jesus' [call](#) requires trust, even when He gives few details (like Abraham).

*8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.  
(Hebrews 11:8 ESV)*



## Leaving Your Comfort Zone

- The disciples “immediately” left their nets - their security & comfort - to follow Jesus. (Matthew 4:20, 22)
- Comfort can become an idol that keeps us from obedience.

*7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.*

*(Philippians 3:7-8 ESV)*

## Leaving Your Comfort Zone

- Following Jesus requires steps of obedience, not just belief or church attendance.

*22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (James 1:22 ESV)*

- Jesus redirects our abilities, using our past experiences for kingdom significance. (Matthew 4:19)

## Leaving Your Comfort Zone

- Following Jesus moves us from spectators to participants in His mission.

*19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19–20 ESV)*



# GOSPEL RESCUE MISSION



## Gospel Rescue Mission

- Jesus makes us “fishers of men,” turning our lives outward toward others. (Matthew 4:19)
- The gospel of the kingdom is active - teaching, proclaiming, & healing. (Matthew 4:23)
- We are saved into a mission, not just saved from sin.

*10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10 ESV)*

## Gospel Rescue Mission

- Helping others discover Jesus deepens our own walk with Him.

*25 Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one  
who waters will himself be watered  
(Proverbs 11:25 ESV)*

- The kingdom of God brings healing, hope & restoration - even when life is hard. (Matthew 4:24)

## Practical Application

- Offer your story - Your life experiences are “nets” Jesus can use to encourage others.
- Pray daily for one person who needs hope, comfort, or salvation.
- Take one small step of obedience.
- Release a comfort that holds you back - fear, routine, or reluctance to change.
- Look for ways to bring “heaven to earth” in our community: kindness, forgiveness, prayer, and presence.

## Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to you that Jesus “sees” you - your heart, your fears & your future?
- What “nets” (comforts, routines, fears) might Jesus be asking you to lay down?
- How have your life experiences prepared you to be a “fisher of men”?
- What is one step of obedience you sense Jesus inviting you to take now?
- How can we bring “heaven to earth” in our senior living community this week?





# HEAVEN *To* EARTH

CALLING OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES

# Jesus is Calling You

- The Calling to Be a Prayer Intercessor
  - Standing in the gap for residents, staff, families, and the facility.
  - Offering steady, faithful prayer when others cannot.
  - Becoming a spiritual “watchman” for the community.

# Jesus is Calling You

- The Calling to Encourage the Lonely
  - Making room at the dining table.
  - Offering simple presence to those who feel forgotten.
  - A ministry of compassion that mirrors Christ's heart.

# Jesus is Calling You

- The Calling to Share Wisdom with the Next Generation
  - Mentoring younger staff.
  - Encouraging visiting family members.
  - Passing on faith stories that strengthen others.

# Jesus is Calling You

- The Calling to Lead or Support Bible Study
  - Facilitating discussion.
  - Reading Scripture aloud for those with vision challenges.
  - Helping others apply biblical truth to daily life.



# Jesus is Calling You

- The Calling to Be a Peacemaker
  - Helping resolve misunderstandings among residents.
  - Modeling patience, gentleness, and humility.
  - Bringing calm where tension arises.

# Jesus is Calling You

- The Calling to Serve Through Creative Gifts
  - Knitting prayer shawls.
  - Creating cards.
  - Sharing music, art, or poetry that lifts spirits.
  - Using God given talents to bless others.

# Jesus is Calling You

- The Calling to Welcome New Residents
  - Helping newcomers adjust emotionally and spiritually.
  - Offering friendship during a vulnerable transition.
  - Becoming a “Barnabas” of hospitality.

# Jesus is Calling You

- The Calling to Bear Witness to Christ Through Suffering
  - Demonstrating hope in illness or limitation.
  - Showing joy in Christ despite physical decline.
  - Encouraging others through steadfast faith.

# Jesus is Calling You

- The Calling to Support Caregivers and Staff
  - Speaking words of appreciation.
  - Praying for them by name.
  - Offering spiritual encouragement to those who serve daily.



## Jesus is Calling You

- The Calling to Live as a Quiet Example of Faithfulness
  - Modeling gratitude.
  - Practicing forgiveness.
  - Demonstrating daily trust in God.
  - Showing that spiritual maturity is a lifelong journey..