

St. James Faith on the Go

January 24, 2021

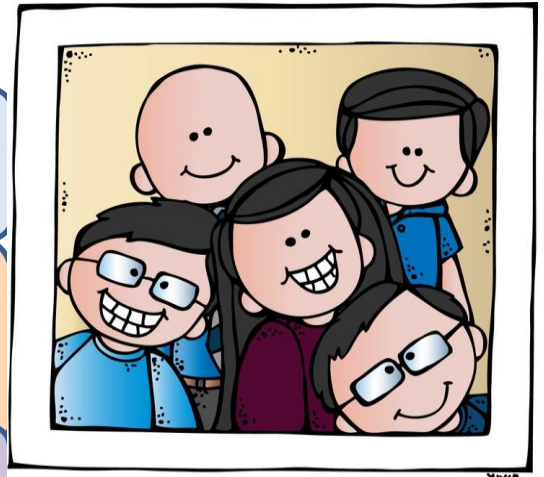
Mark 1:14-20 Jesus Chooses His Friends

Materials Needed: Bible, Faith journal,

Note: This lesson is designed to be used for all ages. Please tailor it to the age and need of your children.

Opening Prayer:

[My Best Friend \(Music Video\) - Hillsong Kids - YouTube](#)



Warm Up:

Do you like to buy new shoes? I think it's fun to try on lots of different types of shoes, even if its not what you would buy. And sometimes there is a pair of shoes you really, really want. You beg your parents, your aunts, uncles and grandparents to buy you those special shoes. Finally, your parents buy them. You are so excited you put them on right away and run outside to show your friends. "Look at my cool shoes!" You are so proud of them. But after a few hours your feet begin to hurt. Those shoes that looked so great are not so great on your feet!

Choosing friends is a bit like choosing your shoes. It doesn't matter what they look like as much as how they fit. Our Gospel story tells about how Jesus chose...not shoes, but friends.

Gospel Telling: Read (or have a child read) Mark 1:14-20

Discussion:

Jesus is God come down to earth. He could have chosen any friends or followers that He wanted. He could have chosen church leaders, or the rich people. He could have chosen the most handsome, talented or smartest people.

But He walked along the lake and chose some fishermen.

Fishermen weren't people who would have studied. They weren't popular and didn't have big dinner parties.

They wouldn't have much money or influence.

But Jesus chose them because they were the right fit.

They were probably rough-looking and smelled like fish and sweat. But that is not what mattered to Jesus.

He knew their hearts and what kind of people they were.

He also knows your heart and what kind of person you are. He has chosen you to follow Him.

He doesn't care if you are athletic or really smart, if you are rich or poor.

What's important are what you are like inside, your character.

Today we are going to look at some character traits and think about what ones are important to us and we'll meet some heroes who demonstrated those traits.

Making the Message Mine

Look at the following characteristics. Which are most important to you in a friend?

Kind Popular Funny Smart Loyal Good-looking Honest Humble

Faithful/Trustworthy Rich Fun Strong Brave Generous Serious

These are all good character traits but most people are strong in some areas and weak in others. Which are your strengths?

What character traits was Jesus looking for?

His disciples were not perfect! They lacked faith when there was a storm at sea. They had difficult time understanding Jesus' teachings. They ran and hid when Jesus was arrested.

Jesus did not expect perfection. He valued their honesty and their willingness to follow Him. They wanted to learn and get better. They were loyal followers.

Let's look at three Character Traits that Jesus valued and that we might look for in a friend.

Loyalty: A loyal friend will always be your friend, even when others turn against you.

Jesus' disciples stayed with Jesus even when the chief priests and community leaders disagree and threatened Him. At one point many followers said His message was too hard to understand and left. Jesus said to His friends, "What about you? Will you leave me also?"

Peter said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life."

Saintly Hero: Blessed Solanus Casey was a loyal follower of the Lord. He was also humble. He went where he was called and was happy to be a doorman and talk and pray with to people who needed prayers. He did this for many years right in Detroit.

In Your life: Who do you know who is loyal? What actions show loyalty?
When have you shown Loyalty?

Courage: The disciples definitely had courage. They left their jobs and their families to follow a man with radical ideas. They also showed courage when Jesus sent them two by two to go teach in the nearby towns. Imagine going into a town square and talking to people you don't know about God's love. Not only that, but Jesus told them to take nothing for the journey: no clothes or money or food. He wanted them to trust that God would provide all they needed, and He did, through the generosity of the townspeople.

Saintly Hero: David When King David was a boy, he was a shepherd. His people, the Israelites were threatened by the Philistines, who wanted to conquer them and take their land and possessions.

David came to the King and told him to arrange a one-on-one combat to decide the winner rather than a battle. The Philistines chose Goliath, a large strong man. Many called him a giant.

David would fight Goliath. David knew God was on his side so he bravely faced the giant and killed him using a rock and a slingshot.

In Your Life: Who do you know that has courage? By what actions do they show courage?
When have you been courageous?

Generosity: The disciples were generous with their time as well as their possessions. After Jesus died and rose, they formed communities where each shared everything they had. People sold their property and the money was used for all in the community.

Saintly Hero: St. Francis of Assisi: St. Francis was from a wealthy family. He had many fine clothes, a fine horse, and anything his heart desired. But, after being injured in battle he spent many days recovering and he thought about his life. He decided that his heart was not satisfied with things, but by following God. He gave everything he owned to the poor and went around in a simple brown robe. He gave the rest of his life to God, starting the Franciscan Order, which has grown and has members all over the world.

In your Life: Who do you know who is generous? What actions show their generosity?

Activity:

Choosing friends is like choosing a new pair of shoes.

Some are flashy, some are athletic, some look really cool. But the best are the ones that are comfortable for you! Jesus chose friends who He knew would help Him in His ministry and continue it after His resurrection.

They were not perfect but they learned that God would provide them with courage, patience, strength and love. They were the perfect fit!

Sometimes the best friends are ones who are different than you, but you get along well, like peanut butter and jelly. Some friends seem to be very much like us, with the same interests.

In your Faith Journal create and award for someone who is a hero or great friend to you.

Tell what character traits make them good friends.

Tell what actions demonstrate the character traits.

You can draw a trophy or other award for them.

Then make sure you let them know that you value them!

Faith Journal Prompt: Dear Jesus, thank you for putting heroes and friends in my life. I am especially thankful for _____. Help me to be a good, kind and loyal friend to everyone you put in my life.

Response:

Take a picture of your children's Faith Journal page and email it to mfitzpatrick@sjnovi.net.

Closing Prayer:

We thank you, Jesus for being the perfect friend. You are loyal and honest, courageous and generous. You, alone, can be the perfect friend for everyone. We thank you for the friends and family you have given us, who help us become better friends. Bless us with the love, patience, and humility to become faithful friends. Amen.