

Time Audit Chronicles: The Call of the Disciples and Early Ministry

(Matthew 4:12-25)

Prologue: An Invitation to Follow

The sound of the ocean waves crashing against the shore filled the Presswood house as the family gathered around the TV, watching a nature documentary about life underwater. Ariel was captivated by the intricate patterns of coral reefs, while Alice was busy pointing out every fish that reminded her of Mr. Fluffernutter, who now had a paper fin taped to his back.

“Daddy,” Ariel said thoughtfully, “why did Jesus call fishermen to follow Him? Weren’t there, like, smarter or more important people He could have chosen?”

Ryan, who was sketching on a notepad nearby, looked up with a smile. “That’s the beauty of it, Ariel. Jesus didn’t call the most powerful or the most educated. He called ordinary people—people like fishermen—because His message was for everyone, not just the elite.”

Alice wrinkled her nose. “Did they just leave all their fish behind?”

“They left everything behind,” Ryan said. “And that’s what makes their story so amazing. They trusted Jesus completely and followed Him without hesitation.”

“Can we see it?” Ariel asked, setting her tablet aside.

Ryan grinned. “I think the Time Audit Machine can take us there. Let’s find out what it was like when Jesus called His first disciples.”

The Journey Begins: Galilee and the Call

The Time Audit Machine hummed with energy in the garage, its glowing dials casting dancing lights on the walls. Ariel tapped the controls with precision, while Alice made sure Mr. Fluffernutter was safely “secured” in his imaginary fishing net.

“Destination: Galilee, early 1st century CE. Objective: witness the call of Jesus’ disciples and His early ministry.”

With a flash of light, the garage disappeared, and the family found themselves standing on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. The salty breeze carried the scent of fish and seaweed, and the cries of gulls filled the air.

“This is Galilee,” Ryan said, gesturing to the bustling fishing boats anchored nearby. “Right where Jesus began calling His disciples.”

“Look!” Alice pointed to a small group of men casting their nets into the water.

“That’s Simon and Andrew,” Ryan said. “Let’s watch what happens next.”

The Call of Simon and Andrew

The Presswoods approached just as a figure appeared on the shoreline. His presence was calm but commanding, and His voice carried across the waves with ease.

“Follow me,” He said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:19)

Simon and Andrew paused, exchanging a glance. Without hesitation, they dropped their nets and began walking toward Him.

“They didn’t even ask questions,” Ariel said, astonished. “They just left everything.”

“They saw something in Jesus—something worth giving up everything for,” Ryan explained. “His words had a power they couldn’t ignore.”

“Fishers of men?” Alice repeated, tilting her head. “What does that mean?”

“It means they would help bring people to God,” Ryan said. “Instead of catching fish, they’d be sharing the message of Jesus with the world.”

The Call of James and John

The Presswoods followed as Jesus walked along the shore, soon approaching another boat. This time, two young men were mending nets with their father, Zebedee.

“James and John,” Ryan whispered.

“Follow me,” Jesus said again, His voice steady and inviting.

James and John immediately stood, leaving their father and the nets behind as they joined Simon and Andrew at Jesus’ side.

“They left their dad?” Alice asked, her brow furrowing.

“They trusted Jesus completely,” Ryan said. “They knew following Him was the most important thing they could do.”

Ariel scribbled in her notebook. “So Jesus called people who were willing to drop everything and follow Him, no matter what?”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “And those people changed the world.”

Teaching and Healing in Galilee

The scene shifted as the Presswoods followed Jesus and His growing group of disciples into the bustling villages of Galilee. Crowds gathered wherever Jesus went, their faces filled with hope and expectation.

“Jesus didn’t just call people to follow Him,” Ryan explained. “He also began teaching them about God’s kingdom and showing them what it looks like.”

As the family watched, Jesus stood in the center of a large crowd, His voice filled with compassion. “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 4:17)

“What’s the kingdom of heaven?” Alice whispered.

“It’s the way things are when God’s will is done perfectly,” Ryan said. “Jesus was inviting people to live in that reality, starting with their hearts.”

Then, Jesus began healing the sick, the lame, and the blind. The Presswoods watched in awe as people were brought to Him, and with a simple touch or word, their lives were transformed.

“He’s healing everyone,” Ariel said, her voice full of wonder.

“That’s because His ministry wasn’t just about words,” Ryan said. “It was about showing God’s love in action.”

The Growing Crowd

As news of Jesus spread, more and more people gathered to see Him. The Presswoods followed the crowd as it grew, marveling at the diversity of those who came. There were farmers, fishermen, merchants, and even Roman soldiers.

“Everyone wanted to hear Him,” Ariel said.

“And He welcomed them all,” Ryan added. “No matter who they were or where they came from.”

“He’s like a big magnet,” Alice said, holding Mr. Fluffernutter tightly. “Everyone wants to follow Him.”

Returning Home: Following the Call

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, leaving the family in quiet reflection. Ariel flipped through her notes, while Alice cradled Mr. Fluffernutter in her arms.

“Jesus didn’t call perfect people,” Ariel said finally. “He called people who were willing to follow Him, no matter what.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “And He still calls us today. The question is whether we’re ready to say yes.”

Alice looked up. “What if we don’t know how to follow Him?”

Ryan smiled. “That’s the best part. He doesn’t expect us to know everything. He just wants us to trust Him and take the first step. He’ll show us the rest.”

Reflection: The Call to Follow

That evening, Ariel read aloud from Matthew 4:

“‘And He saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed Him.’”

The family sat in thoughtful silence, reflecting on the courage of the disciples and the love of Jesus.

“Jesus didn’t just call them to follow Him,” Ryan said. “He invited them into something bigger—a mission to change the world with God’s love.”

“And He’s still inviting us,” Ariel added.

Alice held Mr. Fluffernutter up proudly. “We’re ready to follow!”

Takeaway: A Life-Changing Invitation

The call of the disciples and Jesus’ early ministry remind us that God often uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. When we say yes to Jesus’ invitation, we step into a life of purpose and love, becoming part of His mission to share the good news with the world. No matter who we are or where we come from, His call is for everyone.