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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, January 22, 2017

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Lectionary Year A

**Scripture:** [Matthew 4:12-23](#) [Summary: *Jesus' Disciples Are Ordinary People* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed

**ASK** (a.k.a. [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning
- I have a question for you, and it is maybe a little bit difficult to answer: Can you tell me what you think the word “ordinary” means?
- Those are all good answers! Thank you for helping me out!
- I’ve been thinking about this word some myself and one of the easiest ways I’ve found to explain what the word “ordinary” means is to say what it is not.
- Something that is ordinary is something that is NOT special, is NOT amazing and is NOT hard to find.
- This means that when it comes to most people, although we are important to our loved ones and to God, most of us are ordinary people.
- And this is *not* a bad thing, whatsoever.
- But if we *do* think of ourselves as ordinary, then it is also hard for us to think that we can do special, amazing, and rare things.

**TELL** (a.k.a. [The Freeway](#))

- In the time and place where Jesus lived, the people thought the same things about being ordinary that we do.
- They thought that you had to be a special person to do special things.

- Teachers, for instance, would go to special places, like the city of Jerusalem where the Temple was, and try to get the smartest, most dedicated, most gifted students/disciples to follow them.
- But in today's scripture story, we see that Jesus did just the opposite of this.
- We see Jesus go to a very ordinary town.
- Once Jesus is there, he then asks very ordinary people to be his disciples.
- And he tells these ordinary people who are from ordinary places, "You're going to learn to do what I'm doing and then you are going to do it, too."
- This is what he means when he tells them, "I will make you fish for people."

## **SHARE the Good News** (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- Now...it is easy to think that we can't follow Jesus or do what Jesus did because we aren't special like him.
- But if you think like that, then Jesus is going to disagree with you and his ordinary disciples from ordinary places are going to disagree with you, too.
- Because those ordinary disciples from ordinary places actually went and followed Jesus.
- And though it took them some time to learn what Jesus was teaching them, they DID learn what Jesus was teaching them about how to live God's better way.
- And this is the Good News for today: If Jesus' disciples, who were ordinary people from ordinary places, can follow and do what Jesus did — then so can we!
- Let's Pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

### **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God...**

Dear God...

**Thank you for Jesus...**

Thank you for Jesus...

**...who invites ALL of us...**

...who invites ALL of us...

**...to learn and then live...**

...to learn and then live...

**...your better way.**

...your better way.

**Thank you and Amen.**