



## Group Guide

# The Call

*September 28, 2025*

**Main Passage: Matthew 4:18-22; John 9:35-38; Acts 9:1-20**

## Theological Theme

**Jesus changes lives.** This is true in the stories we read in Scripture, and it's just as true today. When we answer His call, He transforms our lives for the better.

## Introduction

- ? When you think of life-changing moments, what comes to mind?
- ? Have you ever experienced a moment that changed the course of your life? What happened?

## 1. The Disciples Encounter Jesus (Matthew 4:18-22)

Today we're talking about the ultimate life-changing moment: an encounter with Jesus. In our first passage, we're studying Matthew's account of Jesus calling His first disciples: Peter, Andrew, James, and John.

- ? In this passage, Jesus called and the men responded. Why is it important that we recognize when Jesus calls and respond appropriately?
- ? What stands out about how Peter, Andrew, James, and John reacted to Jesus?
- ? Application: Put yourselves in the shoes of the disciples. What hesitations do you have in responding when Jesus calls? Why is it always worth it?

## 2. Saul Encounters Jesus (Acts 9:1-20)

This passage recounts the story of a life-changing encounter of another follower of Jesus, Saul. You may better know him as the apostle Paul, whose letters and life stories still inform and bless believers like you and me today. Just like Peter, Andrew, James, and John, Saul had an encounter with Jesus that changed his life forever.

- ❓ What is unexpected about the encounter with Jesus recorded in this passage?
- ❓ What's significant about what the Lord said to and about Saul in this passage? Why is that important?
- ❓ Application: How does Saul's story give you hope for those who seem "too far gone" to be used by God?

### 3. A Blind Man Encounters Jesus (John 9:35-38)

The verses are an excerpt from a larger account of a miraculous healing Jesus performed. John recorded that Jesus passed by and saw a man who was blind from birth and then proceeded to heal him. Jesus saw this man, who had a need that it was within Jesus's power to meet, and Jesus met it. He made some mud, spread it on this man's eyes, and told him to "wash in the pool of Siloam" (v. 7). After the man obeyed, he came away healed. Jesus's healing changed the entire course of this man's life. Thanks to Jesus, he could see. His life was forever changed, but Jesus wasn't done yet.

- ❓ What does this passage (and the preceding verses) tell us about the kind of people Jesus uses?
- ❓ Why is it important that we share how Jesus has impacted our lives with others as this man did?
- ❓ Application: How could we be better attuned to needs in our community, and how might we use that to seek open doors to share the gospel?

### Conclusion

- ❓ How did you first encounter Jesus? What happened? How has saying "yes" to following Jesus changed your life?
- ❓ How is our group and church meant to stir one another up toward greater faith and growth in following Jesus?
- ❓ How can we use stories of our encounters with Jesus to tell others about Him?