



Tyler and Jon were best friends *and* their school's best basketball players.

They were good players because of all the time they spent shooting hoops in their free time. Whenever they possibly could, they met under the basketball hoop nailed above the garage door at Jon's house. Tyler won most of the one-on-one games, but Jon was the master of their many free-throw contests. Sometimes a few other neighborhood kids would join in the fun.

One day after basketball practice at school, the coach called the two boys aside. "Boys," he began, "come play on the all-county middle school all-star team."

"Um, well," Jon ventured, "what's that, Coach?" Neither boy had ever heard of such a team.

"It's something new," the coach explained. "Remember the tornado that hit south of here last year?"

The boys nodded.

"Well," the coach continued, "schools in that area still need a lot of help rebuilding, and the middle schools in that county are challenging the middle schools of our county to an all-star game as a fundraiser. I'll be coaching our county team. You'd be playing *with* the best *against* the best—and all for a good cause."

"Sure!" they said, catching the coach's enthusiasm.

"Great!" the coach replied. "I'll put your names down. Your parents will get some forms and things in the mail in a few days. Let them know to watch for them, okay, guys?"

Read Mark 1:14-20 and then close your Bible and see if you can answer each of the following questions correctly. If you need help, open your Bible again and check the verse that appears at the end of the question.

WHAT DO



1. When does Jesus begin preaching the gospel? (v. 14)

BEFORE JOHN'S ARREST
AFTER JOHN'S ARREST

2. What sort of gospel does Jesus proclaim? (v. 14)

GOSPEL OF CHRIST
GOSPEL OF GOD

3. What does Jesus say is at hand? (v. 15)

END OF THE WORLD
KINGDOM OF GOD

4. What two things does Jesus tell people to do? (v. 15)

REPENT AND BELIEVE
BELIEVE AND SACRIFICE

5. Which two brothers does Jesus call first? (v. 16-17)

JAMES AND JOHN
SIMON AND ANDREW

YOU SAY WHEN JESUS CALLS?



6. What are Simon and Andrew casting into the sea when Jesus meets them? (v. 16)

LINES AND HOOKS NETS

7. What does Jesus promise the men they will be? (v. 17)

FISHERS OF MEN
FISHERS OF ETERNAL LIFE

8. What are James and John mending when Jesus meets them? (v. 19)

NETS BOATS

9. Do hired men work for James' and John's father? (v. 20)

YES NO

10. Do any of the four fishermen ask Jesus any questions before following him? (v. 18, 20)

YES NO

Tyler and Jon responded immediately and wholeheartedly when the coach told them to “come and play” on the special team to help out folks suffering because of the tornado. They were like Simon and Andrew and James and John, who heard Jesus call to them to follow him.

Like the Apostles in this Gospel, we hear Jesus call us to follow him immediately and wholeheartedly.

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