# Gospel of Matthew Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Matthew Chapter 4

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:  Matthew 4 is where things really start ramping up in Matthew’s gospel. Four things happen: 1) Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted, 2) Jesus’ first preaching is heard: “Repent, the kingdom of heaven is at hand”, 3) Jesus calls four disciples to follow him, and 4) Jesus begins healing people. Jesus’ ministry starts with a bang! The one that seems best to me for a club talk early in the semester is Jesus calling his disciples, the story seems appropriate as an introduction to “get started”, though Jesus is asking a lot more than just to “come back to club next week”, though that might be the next step for many people. Here is an outline of the story:   1. Peter & Andrew (4:18-20)    1. Saw (4:18)    2. Said (4:19)    3. Left /Followed (4:20) 2. James & John (4:21a-22)    1. Saw (4:21a)    2. Called (4:21b)    3. Left / Followed (4:22) |
| Possible main point(s):   * Take your next step to see what Jesus is about. For some of you that means to come back to club next week, for others of you - bring a friend to club next week, be a “fisher” of people to learn more about what is means to follow Jesus. * There is no interview required to follow Jesus. There was nothing special about these four fishermen, they were totally normal, everyday, guys. There were no interview questions, background checks on their sins, Jesus 1) saw them and 2) called them. * Jesus calls, will you follow? Jesus does the same thing twice, when something is repeated it is very important. *Jesus* 1) saw, 2) called, and *they* 3) left and followed Jesus. Will you not only follow, but leave whatever is your priority in life (for Peter and Andrew it was fishing, for James and John is was fishing *and* family) and follow Jesus |
| What this shows us about Jesus:   * Jesus “saw”... Jesus sees who you are, what you are going thought (4:18, 21) * Jesus “invites” ... Jesus could do everything in the world on His own, He is God. But God invites us to be a part of what He wants to do in this world. (4:20, 22) * There was something about Jesus so compelling that, in an instant, people wanted to follow him (4:20, 22). |
| What this has to do with our life:   * You are “seen” by Jesus: Jesus saw the four fishermen *then* and He sees you *now*. * You are invited: The invitation was not just for the four fisherman, it is for you, and the time is *now*. * You are “enough”: whether you’ve done terrible things or have been pretty good, you qualify to follow Jesus * You have a purpose, a purpose which goes far beyond your future job (ex: fishing) and even relationships (ex: family)... Jesus wants you to join the work He is doing in the world *so that* you can walk with Jesus. |
| Relevant technical details:   * Simon, Andrew, James, and John = Normal, everyday, fishermen * “Follow me” (v.19) = To become a student who followed, and often lived with their teacher. They did not merely listen to lectures! * “Follow” (v.19) = The tense of the verb “to follow” is continuous (present-tense imperative), Jesus was asking them to continuously follow him. * “Fishers of men” (v.19) = Jesus intentionally uses language that Simon, Andrew, James, and John would understand. |
| Possible illustrations:   * “Follow” on social media: What does it mean to “follow”? Not much. When they followed Jesus it was a life changing experience. * Grab some of the items mentioned in the story: fishing pole, a net, even a boat (small or large, even inflatable raft, doesn’t matter) * Maybe a “resume” or a print out of your bio from your Facebook/social page. Tear it in half to show that Jesus the “who” about you and not the “what” about you. |

*For more details see ylhelp.com*

Matthew 4 (ESV)

**The Temptation of Jesus**

**4**Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2**And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. **3**And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” **4**But he answered, “It is written,

“ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

**5**Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple **6**and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and

“ ‘On their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

**7**Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” **8**Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. **9**And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” **10**Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God

and him only shall you serve.’ ”

**11**Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

**Jesus Begins His Ministry**

**12**Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. **13**And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, **14**so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

**15** “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,

the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

**16** the people dwelling in darkness

have seen a great light,

and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,

on them a light has dawned.”

**17**From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

**Jesus Calls the First Disciples**

**18**While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. **19**And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” **20**Immediately they left their nets and followed him. **21**And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. **22**Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

**Jesus Ministers to Great Crowds**

**23**And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. **24**So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. **25**And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.