

# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



**Subject: RE**

**Topic: Discipleship**

**Year: 3**

**Summer 2**

## What should I already know?

- Mark's Gospel is the shortest
- Mark's community were being persecuted. Emperor Nero didn't like Christians and therefore killed many because of their beliefs.
- The story of Exodus is about Moses leading the people out of Egypt; he leads God's people to Israel
- Know who the 12 disciples of Jesus were.



## What we will be learning about:

- The disciples are fishing in Lake Galilee and are called by Jesus to follow him. These people were doing their ordinary jobs and Jesus came and asked them to follow him. The response is always the same – immediately, they leave what they are doing and go and follow. This included Simon, Andrew, James, John and Levi.
- Being a follower does not necessarily mean to physical follower. They are expected to follow a way of life; a set of principles, a set of behaviors.
- In the book of Exodus – when Moses led the 12 tribes of Israel (12 brothers) each tribe was given a piece of land (except for Levi.) By the time Jesus was born, only two tribes remain due to war. One of the signs that the Messiah had come was that the Messiah would restore the 12 tribes of Israel (build them up again.) Mark talks about the followers of Jesus being 'the 12'. The fact that there are 12 of them symbolically represents the restoration of the 12 tribes of Israel.
- None of the Gospels have exactly the same names of the disciples
- These following disciples were in Jesus' inner circle – Simon, Andrew, James and John. Levi is not in the 12 but is a disciple. Mary Magdalene and a few more women are also disciples of Jesus. Outside the group of the 12, there are men and women who are still disciples of Jesus, even if their names are forgotten.
- Levi is also called by Jesus and he's a tax collector. He's sitting at his booth when Jesus calls him. It's unusual for him to be called because of his occupation. Tax collectors weren't appreciated or liked by Jewish people. They were Jews who worked for the Romans and the Romans oppressed the Jews when they occupied the land. Their job was to collect taxes – often more than they were entitled to. The money that the Jews paid to the tax collectors, then to the Romans, was used to keep them oppressed. Tax collectors were seen to be some of the worst sinners; they worked for the enemy and stole from the Jewish people.
- Jesus is criticized for hanging around with 'sinners' such as tax collectors.
- Mark teaches in his gospel that anyone can become a disciple. There were stories about two women in the Bible who showed the characteristics of being a disciple.
- Mark 12: A woman in the Gospel is described as a poor widow. She's at the temple and paying her money, to the temple, to pay for the upkeep of it. She has two coins which are worth about a penny. Jesus is sitting and watching and lots of women walk past and throw in masses of money. Then the woman places everything she has – only two copper coins. Jesus makes a note that she gives everything she has. An act of supreme love.
- Another example of a woman in Mark's Gospel is in Mark 14. At the beginning of the Passion of Jesus Christ. Jesus and the disciples are just outside Jerusalem. They are at Bethany at the house of Simon the leper. This woman comes in with an expensive jar of oil. She pours the oil of Jesus' head. The disciples asks why she has done this as it could have been sold for a lot of money! Jesus says leave her alone, she has performed a good service (one of the characteristics of being a good disciple)
- Service – usually the work of a servant and these women were known for their service
- Kings being anointed – with oil or ointment on their head. This is also what is done during baptism and confirmation. By the woman anointing Jesus' head, she sort of proclaims that he is the anointed one through her actions. Her action is one of devotion and love.

## Vocabulary

- **Disciple:** A disciple is a student or learner
- **Rabbi:** is a teacher, he would teach in the synagogue and the disciples would gather around the rabbi seated on the floor, ready to learn.
- **Tax collector:** tax collectors were not appreciated or liked by the Jewish people as they were Jews who worked for the Romans (the oppressors) as well as this they profited from the Jews and this money was used to keep the Jews oppressed.
- **Persecution:** hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or political or religious beliefs
- **Commitment:** being dedicated and devoted to something.

