

International Conversation Café

Hero Story- How did Jesus Christ Go About Bringing the Kingdom of God to Earth?

Hint- He Formed a Team

How much can one person accomplish on their own? Most successful leaders have people behind them that contribute to their success. A leader invites others into their mission.

Mother Teresa said, "None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful."

Give an example of a leader and his team that supported him or her.

In the first century Palestine, for Jewish families, the first formal education was given by the local rabbi, a teacher that was hired by the community. There is evidence that both boys and girls began their education at four or five years of age. Their textbook was the Old Testament scriptures which they learned to both read and write. They also memorized large portions of it. At the age of 12-14, most boys entered training in a trade and girls stayed at home. Some continued their education while they pursued a trade or training at home. At the age of 30, a man became eligible to become a teacher.

Tell about the educational system in your country.

Jesus was recognized as a rabbi, and a great one, which refers to his abilities in knowing, interpreting, and applying the Scriptures. Up until 70 AD, the title of "rabbi" did not indicate they had an official office. Instead, great rabbis took on students that would learn from them. Sometimes students asked to follow the master and sometimes the master sought them out. As a student, they not only listened to their words but wanted to imitate their actions and wisdom. Rabbis also traveled and were honored by local teachers and religious leaders.

Have you ever had a teacher you followed? Tell about this experience.

The following is a story of how Jesus was recognized and invited people to follow him.

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him (Luke 5:1-11).

Look at the painting on the right. How does it tell the story?

From the story, what do we learn about Jesus?

Why do you think Peter asked the Lord to leave?

Jesus formally called 12 men to become his apostles, his sent ones. "He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons (Mark 3:14-15).

In your own words, what did Jesus expect of the 12?

How does this describe the role of a student of a rabbi?



Albrecht Bouts. The Miraculous Draught of Fish.
Early 16th century. M-Museum Leuven, Belgium

Though there were 12 who were officially appointed to follow Jesus, many many more followed and listened to Jesus. At one point, 72 were sent out to, "Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you'" (Luke 10:9). It seems that both men and women were among those following Jesus.

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means (Luke 8:1-3).

After Jesus suffered, died, rose from the dead, and returned to heaven, his disciples invited others to follow Jesus.

He (Jesus) commanded us (disciples) to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

What were the disciples telling others about Jesus?

Is there an invitation in these sentences? What is it?