

## PREPARING AT HOME

January 15-21, 2018

*Focus reading:* Mark 1:14–20 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=380263173>)

*Other lectionary readings:* Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18; 1 Corinthians 6:12–20; John 1:43–51

*Theme:* Casting Call

As we begin a new year, we often reflect on the gift and the challenge of time. We marvel at how quickly time seems to pass. We think about how we spent our time last year and how we would like to spend our time in the year ahead. We wish we had more time. We wish we had used our time more wisely. In this week's reading Jesus tells the fishermen that will become his disciples "The time is fulfilled" (verse 15). Isn't that what we long for? When I am anticipating a vacation, I busy myself with to-do lists to ensure that all is ready for my departure and I will be prepared to make the most of the vacation. Once on the beach or wherever vacation is, the time is fulfilled. It is complete and rich. Jesus called fishermen who were used to ordering their days according to chronological time that in Greek is called *chronos*. Jesus was inviting them to live in *kairos*, seizing the opportune moment for decisive action. There was no need for them to waste any more *chronos* time researching whether or not they should follow Jesus. There was no need to prepare, only to go. They went "immediately" knowing that they were entering *kairos*. Jesus' call was more than an invitation to switch their "to do" lists from the task of fishing for fish to fishing for people. It was an invitation to live transformed lives where Jesus fulfills the present and the future.

### I WONDER

This is a very short story that leaves us with some unanswered questions. Share the story and then play an "I wonder" game. What are you left wondering after the story is told? Imagine the different possibilities.

### HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME?

Think of all that you do in a day. How much time do you spend on each activity? Draw a circle and divide the circle into different activities, reflecting the time spent of each activity. It will look like a pie with different sized pieces when you are done. What changes would you like to make? How are you following Jesus with your time?

### PRAYER

Loving God,  
You call us to follow Jesus.  
Help us to know what we need to leave behind  
that we might be faithful followers,  
sharing your good news with others  
and inviting them to  
follow Jesus as well.  
Amen.

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