

## Lesson #2-17

# *Jesus' Ministry Begins*

Mark 1:1-20; Mark 1:21-45

**Key Verses:**

[Jesus said] "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." (Mark 1:15)

And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. (Mark 1:34)

**The Point:**

Jesus begins his work, bringing the kingdom of God to everyone.

**Unit Theme (December 29—January 19)**

God's Kingdom Announced

## *Jesus Calls the Disciples*

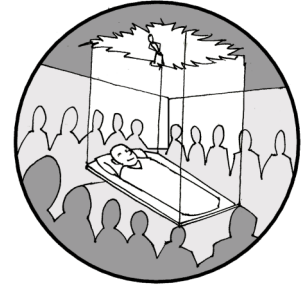
*Catching God's love.*

*You will need:*

- † Rope or yarn
- † Playground ball(s)

*Instructions:*

1. Gather participants in a large open area, if possible. Work together to lay the rope or yarn in a large circle preferably at least ten feet in diameter. This circle is the sea.
2. Select one participant to be Jesus. **Jesus will hold a ball and stand in the middle of the circle, right in the water.**
3. **The rest of you will stand around the outside of the circle. You are fishers who are preparing for a day of fishing in the sea.**
4. **Jesus will dribble or carry the ball around the circle and then bounce it toward one of the**
- fishers as he says, "Follow Me!" Of course, **Jesus wants the fishers to catch the ball so multiple chances are given if it is not caught the first time.**
5. **The fisher catches the ball and immediately must name one way to share God's love. Help can be offered.** Encourage participants to make these relevant ways to share God's love in today's world. **Once the fisher names a way to share God's love, they become a disciple and joins Jesus inside the circle.**
6. Play continues until everyone is inside the circle. Variation: With each disciple that joins Jesus, add another ball. Then multiple disciples can be "called" simultaneously. This will also help large groups complete the game more quickly.
7. Repeat the game as desired.



## Lesson #2-18

# *Jesus Forgives Sins*

### Mark 2:1-22

**Key Verses:**

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."  
Mark 2:5

**The Point:**

Jesus welcomes everyone into God's kingdom.

**Unit Theme (December 29—January 19)**

God's Kingdom Announced

## *I Am Welcome*

*Discuss why we are all welcomed by Jesus.*

*You will need:*

- † Tableware

*Preparation:*

1. Set up a table with plates, cups, and other dishes.

*Instructions:*

1. Gather the group around a table set with simple paper or plastic silverware and dishes.
2. **An important part of our story today is about Jesus going to dinner at the house of a man named Levi. Levi was a tax collector, and during this time in the Bible, lots of people did not like tax collectors, including some people, called Pharisees.**
3. **Jesus ate dinner with more tax collectors and other people as well, at Levi's house. When the Pharisees asked Jesus why he would eat with someone like Levi, Jesus answered with a comparison. Jesus said that just like a**
4. **healthy person does not need a doctor as much as a sick person, a well-liked person does not need a friend as much as someone who is not well-liked.**
4. **We are going to talk about ways that we are each special and unique, and gifts that we can bring to our church and families. As we go around the table, think of one special gift or talent that you have, and say, "I am \_\_\_\_\_, and Jesus welcomes me!"**  
Encourage participants to think of a personality trait rather than a physical trait—I have a good sense of humor, I am kind, etc.
5. **Jesus showed that everyone is welcome at his table. Jesus shows us today, too, that we are all welcome at his table, no matter who we are or what we have done.**
6. For older groups, participants can think of a less-desirable trait while they say their name in the statement above.