

Cross my Heart



Children's SERMONS
for the **Six Weeks of Lent**
and **Easter Sunday**

- + Love in the Ministry of Jesus
- + Love in the Parables of Jesus
- + Love in the Miracles of Jesus
- + Love in the Healings of Jesus
- + Love in the Last Week of Jesus
- + Love in the Cross of Jesus
- + Love in the Resurrection of Jesus



Cross my Heart

Love in the Ministry of Jesus

A Children's Sermon for the First Week of Lent

—Matthew 4:18-22—

Hello, boys and girls. Welcome to the season of Lent. Lent is a time for us to remember the cross of Jesus and the love he has in his heart for each one of us. Sometimes when we remember the love of Jesus and his cross, we cross our heart like this (*make the Sign of the Cross with your hand going from top to bottom, then left to right over your heart*). Can you do that with me? (*Cross your heart along with the children.*) There are many ways that Jesus showed his love to us on the way to the cross to save us. These children's sermons during Lent will help us to think about the great love Jesus has for us.

The first thing that Jesus did when he started his ministry was to call his disciples. Jesus saw two brothers who were fishermen. Peter and Andrew were casting their nets into the sea. Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people" (Matthew 4:19). Peter and Andrew dropped their nets and followed Jesus immediately. Jesus chose them and loved them, and in turn Peter and Andrew loved Jesus. They showed their love for Jesus by listening to him say that he was the Messiah, the one God had sent to save the whole world from sin. Peter and Andrew then went and told their friend Nathanael about Jesus, and Nathanael followed Jesus too. Soon more people were telling other people about Jesus, and the love of Jesus was spreading far and wide.

The ministry of Jesus continues to this day, doesn't it? People like pastors, Sunday school teachers, your parents or grandparents, maybe even your brothers and sisters told you about Jesus. Now it is your turn to tell people about Jesus. You can say, "Jesus loves you" to a friend or classmate or teammate. You can say, "Jesus died for your sins on the cross" to your neighbors or relatives or people you text or call on the phone. By spreading the Good News about Jesus, you are living the life of a disciple and follower of Jesus today.

Lent reminds us that we should not keep the love of Jesus on the cross to ourselves. We need to share his love. When more and more people have the love of Jesus in their hearts, they become more and more loving to the people around them. It is our moment now to be loving and caring to one another, just as Jesus has been loving and caring to us. Saying a kind word to someone who is alone, helping out with the chores at home, waving to people you know at church are small ways that you can cross your heart for Jesus and remember that love is the reason Jesus came to live and die and rise again for us. Be like those first disciples today and follow Jesus by loving others.

Dear Jesus, thank you for calling Peter and Andrew to follow you, and thank you for calling each one of us to follow you in your ministry of love, which took you to the cross. Amen.

Activities for the First Week of Lent

Love in the Ministry of Jesus

Hidden Words

Find the hidden words in this puzzle from the list below.

C D N E L F L W R
Q I D O W M O O G
U S S E S A V P N
T C I M W D E E I
M I N I S T R Y L
Z P E O P L E D L
I L S T T L D E A
O E F I S H E R C
G I S U S E J B V

CALLING + JESUS + FISH + PEOPLE
DISCIPLE + MINISTRY + LOVE

This Lent we celebrate the love Jesus offers to those who answer his call. How many words can you make from the letters in FISH FOR PEOPLE?

F I S H F O R P E O P L E

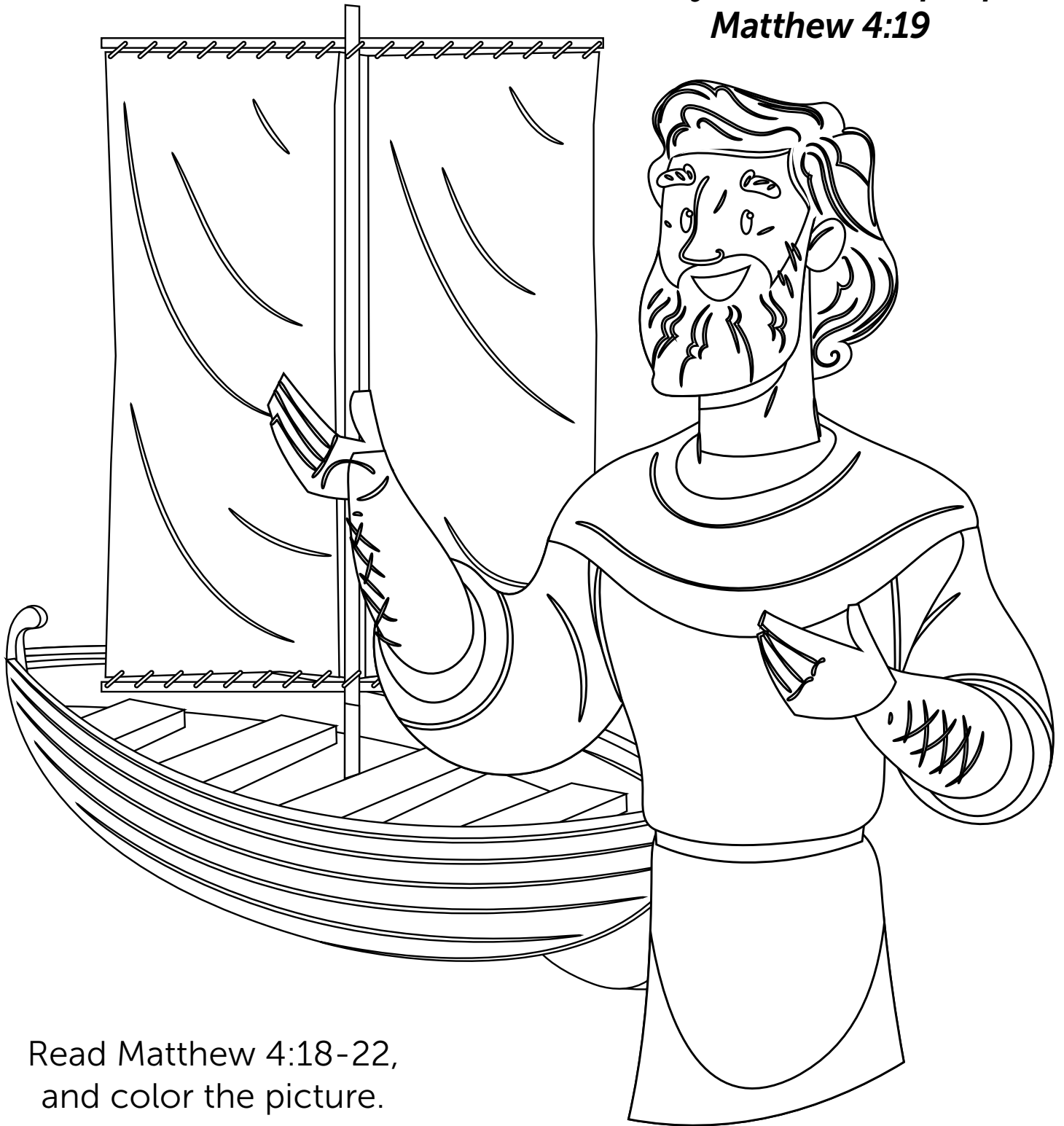
Following Jesus

During Lent, we are following Jesus on his journey to the cross. Draw a picture of yourself following Jesus.



Coloring Page for the First Week of Lent
Love in the Ministry of Jesus

*Follow me, and I will
make you fishers of people.
Matthew 4:19*



Read Matthew 4:18-22,
and color the picture.