**The Encounter**

**The First Disciples**

**Review - Zacchaeus**

How did you get on with thinking about Zacchaeus’ encounter with Jesus?

What changes, if any, have you made to your life from what you learned or experienced?

What are you still thinking about, encouraged or challenged by?

**The First Disciples**

(all drawn from *Incarnate, Michael Frost, IVP 2014, p 142*)

From what you remember of the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John):

When do you think Jesus’ first disciples became Christians?

Was it when they accepted the call to follow him?

Or when they came to understand that he was the promised Messiah (of the Jews)?

Or when they saw him being raised from the dead?

Or when they received the Holy Spirit?

Or was it when they realised that the good news was for the Gentiles as well as the Jews?

In each example, their faith in Jesus deepens, and this results in actions which, in turn, deepen their faith again.

And this all happens, in very practical ways, as they walk, live and learn alongside Jesus.

**Mission Shaped Living**

*(John McGinley, Leaders Guide, p15)*

‘Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James and John to be his followers when they were fishermen. In Jewish culture the young men who showed most spiritual promise in the local synagogue were invited by a rabbi to be their disciple. All other young men were left to continue in their faither’s business. So from their vocation we know that these young men hadn’t made the spiritual grade. Regardless, when they met Jesus, they were willing to follow him and learn from him, reminding us that **following Jesus and being sent by him on mission is not about our ability; it is simply about being willing to become his apprentice or a learner, which is all a disciple is.’**

This is why it is Good News!!

**How do I become a Christian?**

Did you know that it is ok to ask God to become a Christian?

This is the whole reason that John wrote his gospel:

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. **31**But these are written **that you may believethat Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.** (John 20:30)

You may want to use the prayer in the *Alpha booklet, Why Jesus?* or the *100th Anniversary of the Gospel of John* that was given to those in ‘Active Service’ in 1914-1918. Let me know if you would like a copy.

**Or, why not follow my Grandpa’s advice in his 1952 book, ‘When God Goes A-Fishing’ (p 41). His suggestion is:**

**‘When you get to your room, kneel and pray. Listen for the word of Jesus in your soul, and be obedient to it. All the rest must be left to God’s Spirit’.**