



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Resource Centre

Why are
we going?

Children's Story

Year B, Epiphany 3

Title: Why are we going?
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Text: Mark 1: 14-20
Theme: Jesus calls his friends to fish
for people

Wondering Questions:

- I wonder if Taylor will make new friends quickly in Brazil.
- I wonder how Taylor will help invite people to follow Jesus in Brazil.
- I wonder if it's scarier to help God in our neighbourhood or far away.
- I wonder how God wants us to join in what God is doing here and far away.

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Gathering Activity:

Welcome the children as they gather for the children's story. Encourage them to settle into a comfortable position and to remember and be happy that God is very near. Once a mood of holy expectation is established, ask them if they've ever been asked to do something that was scary. Did they ever have to move or have a good friend move away? How did they feel about it? Was it scary? Fun? Exciting? Sad? Maybe it was all of those things wrapped up together, so it was hard to know how to feel. Open your Bible to Mark 1:14-20 and tell the children that in today's Bible reading, Jesus calls his first disciples, who were fishermen, and tells them that he will make people fishers out of them. This was probably confusing and exciting and scary for them. Our story is about what that can look like in the life of a boy who's a lot like them.

Story:

Taylor looked around his room. The floor was scattered with boxes, his favourite toys were packed away, and his bed frame was taken apart; the mattress stood up

on its end against the wall. Moving so far away was going to be hard. He sighed, put down his Nintendo DS and went downstairs. He went to the kitchen, opened the fridge, grabbed an apple and plopped down at the kitchen table. He was staring at the apple when he heard, "Are you trying to see your reflection?" Taylor looked up and saw his Dad standing in the kitchen door. He smiled at him weakly, and said, "No."

"Well," Dad replied, "if you're not eating up everything in sight, something must be wrong. What's the matter?" "Nothing," Taylor responded. Dad walked over to the table, sat down across from him and waited.

"It's just that I don't understand why we have to go!! I never said I wanted to move, let alone half way across the world to Brazil! We don't know anyone there, I'll have no one to play with, we don't know what we're going to be doing, where I'm going to school, and, I don't even speak Portuguese! When you and Mom first started talking with us about going to Brazil, it sounded so cool and exciting, but now this whole thing sounds a little bit nuts to me."

Dad was listening closely. When Taylor was finished, Dad nodded and sighed. "I think all of us, your mom, your sister, and me, have thought those same thoughts." Taylor raised his eyebrows in surprise, but Dad went on talking, "But what I keep remembering is that we are going along with something God wants us to do. We are not going to Brazil because of something we want, we are going because God wants us to be disciples there."

Taylor looked confused, "I thought the disciples were in the Bible. There aren't any disciples today. Are there?" "I think there are, Taylor," Dad replied. "Everyone who is part of a church is a disciple when they follow Jesus and try to do what God wants them to do. For some that means helping to make life better for people who are in their neighbourhoods, so that they will believe God loves them and will want to learn more about God's way. For others, like us, that means going farther away to see and hear and join in what God is doing in another part of the world. We are going to Brazil because Jesus invited us to join him there. When we said yes to becoming disciples of Jesus, we also said yes to helping God whatever way we can; wherever that is needed. Praying together with people in our church and with people who work for the big church we're part of, convinced us God wants us to help invite people in Brazil to follow Jesus. It's okay to be nervous. I am nervous, too, and it will be a bit weird at first, but we have to remember that God doesn't just send disciples; God is already there, waiting to help us make new friends and learn a new language. We won't be alone."

Taylor nodded; what Dad had said made him feel better. Perhaps it would be cool to be a disciple in Brazil after all. It helped to know that the rest of his family was nervous, too, and that they would all help each other as they learned how to be disciples in Brazil. And it helped a lot to remember that God was already there, waiting to help them all get started at being disciples in a new place.

Prayer:

God, thank you for still calling and giving us jobs as disciples. We want to listen closely for the way you want us to help you. Thank you for being there and helping us help you. Amen.