

Wear Your Shoes Well

Big Idea: Remember that God has uniquely created each of us

Key Bible Verses: Mark 1:16-20

Supplies Needed: Bible, shoes

Lesson Length: 40 minutes

Age Level: middle school or high school

This lesson works well for smaller groups. The group of teenagers should sit in a circle, with feet in the middle and the students facing each other. Ask the young people to remove their shoes and place them inside the circle. Then read Mark 1:16-20 aloud (Jesus' call to the fishermen from Galilee).

Then say something like: "Take a moment to look at the shoes in your circle. Try on another pair. Examine how other people's shoes may look newer or older or more worn than your own."

Ask these questions:

- What can we learn or discern about other people by looking at their shoes?
- Even if another person's shoes fit you, why don't they feel as comfortable as your own?
- Which is better, in your estimation—new shoes that have never been worn, or a pair of shoes that have been worn for some time? Why?

After this discussion, invite the teenagers to think about their own shoes. They do not need to answer aloud, but encourage them to think about the questions as you read each one.

(If you believe your students will engage in honest conversation, go ahead and have them answer the questions aloud.)

Where have your shoes been in the past week? Where have they taken you?

- Have the places you've been and the sights you've seen consistently reflected your faith in Jesus? Why or why not?
- How have your feet followed Jesus in the past week? Where have you gone after faithfully responding to his call?
- Only you can fulfill the call of Christ in your life. You are the only one who can live your life! How do you feel realizing that no one can walk in your shoes or fill your shoes?

Close your lesson with a time of silence or by reading aloud this prayer:

"Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have made all things well. You have created us uniquely, too. And we thank you also for calling us to follow the Christ and to fish for people. Help us to walk this day and always in the faithful paths you have set for us. In his name we pray, amen."