

1. In 1:15, Jesus says, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand." What does he mean by these two statements? (See Gal 4:4; Eph. 1:10; and Luk 10:9-10.)
2. In that same verse he adds, "Repent and believe in the gospel." Using the following passages to help you think about your answer, explain in your own words what faith is? Why is faith so important for our relationship with God and our hope of salvation? (See John 1:12; Isa. 26:3-4; Phil 3:8-10; Gal. 2:16.)¹
3. Using the following passages to help you think about your answer, explain in your own words what repentance is? Why is repentance so important? And if we are justified by faith, then is repentance even truly necessary? (See Acts 11:18; 2:37-38; Jer. 3:22; Jer. 31:18-19; and Ezek. 36:31.) Why are both repentance and belief necessary responses to Jesus?²
4. What do Simon and Andrew's immediate response to Jesus' call reveal about the nature of discipleship? (1:16-18) What is the significance of the fact that they "left their nets" and followed Jesus? What does their response teach us about the priority of Christ's call over ordinary responsibilities and ambitions? Again, what is significant about James and John leaving their father Zebedee in order to follow Jesus? (See 1:19-20; see Phil. 3:7-8.) Does following Jesus necessarily require the abandoning of family or vocation?
5. Why does Jesus say that he will make Simon and Andrew become "fishers of men" (1:17)? How does this metaphor help us understand the mission Jesus gives his disciples? In what sense is every follower of Christ, i.e., every disciple, called not just to know Jesus themselves, but to make Jesus known?

¹ Westminster Shorter Catechism Q. 85 asks, "What doth God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?" Answer: "To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus Christ [and] repentance unto life..." Then the next question asks, "What is faith in Jesus Christ?" Answer: "Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel."

² Westminster Shorter Catechism Q. 86 asks, "What is repentance unto life?" Answer: "Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience."