



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Session 2: Invitation

Suggested Week of Use: December 14, 2025

Core Passage: Matthew 4:12-25

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### News Story Summary

The Department of Labor recently announced an expansion of its Registered Apprenticeship Program. As part of the expansion, the states of Alabama and Colorado received \$12.5 million to develop new apprenticeship opportunities. The goal of this program is to “meet businesses’ unique needs.” The agreement with Alabama includes developing online tools and creating a template for evaluating apprenticeship work processes. In Colorado, the state will develop tools to expand pre-apprenticeships and to make sure these are integrated with post-secondary education. Officials believe the program has the potential to create one million new apprenticeships across the country.

For more about this story, search “Labor Department expands apprentice programs.”

### Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, encourage anyone who has served as an apprentice or worked with an apprentice to share their experiences. Ask: *What was most beneficial about the experience? How did it help you as you transitioned into a full-time job?* Explain that the U.S. Department of Labor is working to expand apprenticeship opportunities across the country. Share the information from the article about the Labor Department’s partnerships with Alabama and Colorado. Say: *Apprenticeships equip our future workforce, but this topic also provides a helpful illustration of our calling as Christ followers. In today’s session, we’ll examine how Jesus called out His apprentices—His disciples—and began equipping them to carry on His work after He returned to heaven.*

### Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, remind adults about the apprenticeship programs in Alabama and Colorado. Say: *As Christians, we are essentially Christ’s apprentices. Being His disciples means that we must follow His example and minister to others the way He did—even if that requires sacrifice.* Group adults into pairs. Give each pair a slip of paper and a pen or pencil. Direct them to agree on one statement that should be included if we were creating an “Apprenticeship with Christ” program contract. After a few minutes, call for volunteers to share their responses. Ask: *What will help us to be successful apprentices for Christ?* Record responses on the board and challenge the group to identify one way they can strengthen their discipleship this week. Close the session in prayer.