

**I**t all began with a visit to Simon and Andrew's house.

Simon took James, John and Jesus with him. They had been in the synagogue as it was the sabbath, and now they were ready for a rest. But when they arrived, Simon's mother-in-law was ill in bed with a fever. Jesus didn't hesitate. He walked over to her, took her by the hand, and lifted her up. At once the fever was gone. So she got up, and began to serve her guests. For a little while, Jesus and his friends were able to rest. But not for long.



At sunset, when the sabbath was over, a crowd of people appeared outside Simon and Andrew's house. \*

Word had got out that Jesus was in town. So everyone who was sick in the whole city came to the door! Jesus came out to meet them. He spoke with all of them and cured many people. Eventually, when everyone had left, Jesus and his disciples rested.

It was still dark the next morning when Jesus got up. He needed to be alone, so he went out to a deserted place to pray. \* But when Simon woke up he was worried. Where could Jesus be? He woke some of the others and they set out to search for Jesus. They soon found him, alone, and praying. 'Everyone's searching for you!' they said.

Jesus stood up, turned to them and said, 'Let us go to the next town.' So off they went; no time to rest.

In the next town, Jesus and his friends told people the good news about God. And then they went to the next town, and the next; telling people the good news about God, and healing people. As they were walking along, Jesus turned to Simon and said, 'This is what I came to do.' **Mark 1.29-39**

\* See *Share the Word*.