

If you have limited time to prepare, this 3-step outline is a helpful tool for leading a small group discussion:

1. Read the text from Sunday's message.
2. What did you find most helpful/confusing/new/ that you did not understand from the message?
3. What were your big takeaways? How will you put these into practice in your life?

Getting Started

- Has God ever asked you to do something impossible or unreasonable? What happened?
- What does it mean to be in the business of catching men? Are you in that business?
- Read Luke 5:1-11

On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, ² and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." ⁶ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁷ They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." ¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Discussion

Pastor John started his message by summarizing the main point from this passage: By Jesus' power and authority multitudes of people will be caught for eternal kingdom blessings by the followers of Jesus who ...

1. Teach the word of God
 2. Obey the commands of Jesus
 3. Humble themselves, and
 4. Treasure Christ above all
- Start your time together by making observations about this passage. Where did this story take place, consider the audience, the characters involved, their profession, when did this happen, when was the best time to fish, what were the two ways that Peter called Jesus in v5 and v8, their response to Jesus, etc.

Pastor John suggested at least three reasons why we should be continually engaging in the ministry of evangelism ...

1. Help people find REST for their souls (Matthew 11:28-30)
2. Experience complete JOY (John 15:11)
3. Receive the gift of ETERNAL LIFE (John 3:36)

The marks for a disciple who is engaged in this ministry of continually “catching men” are ...

1. Teaching the Word of God

- a. Share how you engage with the Word now (hear, read, study, memorize and meditate) and how you'd like to grow in these spiritual disciplines this year. What are your next steps of growth?
- b. Why is it so important to bring the truth of the Bible into our interactions with others?
- c. Based on Hebrews 4:12-13, why is it essential that we incorporate the Word of God into our evangelism and not just relay on our own words?

2. Obeying the commands of Jesus (Go and make disciples ...)

- a. What are some of the excuses you have used for not sharing the Gospel with others?
- b. What is a next step you can take this year to grow in your comfort and boldness with sharing your faith?
 - Sign up to serve in a ministry at CF
 - Go on a short-term mission trip
 - Read books on evangelism
 - Check out www.cfdowningtown.com/gospel.
 - Other ...

3. Responding in humility

- a. How did Peter respond in humility in this passage?
- b. Share some ways that you could grow in humility this year.
- c. How does humility in evangelism open the door for others to better see the grace and love of Jesus?
- d. Explain why prayer may be one of the best indicators of where we are with humility.
 - Join us this Thursday for our Monthly Prayer Gathering, 7pm in the Loft

4. Treasuring Christ above all

- a. In response to this encounter with Jesus, Peter and the others left everything and followed Jesus. What does this/will this look like in your life?
- b. Consider Luke 9:21-27, 14:25-33; Philippians 3:1-14

Prayer

Father, we hear and read of Jesus so much that we often lose sight of His awesomeness. Help us to see what Peter saw in Him that morning on the shore of Lake Galilee. Give us the grace to give ourselves wholly to Him, unworthy though we are.

Pray for one another and the next steps you will take by God's grace to grow spiritually this year.