**Fishermen are Made, Not Born**

**Small Group Notes**

**October 3 and 6**

**Main Point:** A disciple follows Christ, is formed by Christ, focuses on others, and forsakes everything and pushes through any excuse to “go fishing.”

**Introduction:**

**Share briefly any fishing stories that you have as a child or adult. If you don’t have a story about it, what are some things that interest or confuse you about fishing?**

**What are some excuses that we have in our lives today for not fishing? (Not an interest, not enough time, etc.)**

When we begin to follow Jesus, we begin a journey that transforms the very core of who we are. The Gospel of Mark opens the story of Jesus’ ministry with Jesus calling Simon, Andrew, James, and John to leave their families and professions and to follow Him—to “fish for people”—and so they do. These men will find, along with us, that a disciple can either bring excuses for not fishing or they will find the joy that happens in their life when they are passionate about sharing the gospel.

**Discuss:**

**1. Read Mark 1:16-18.**

What do you think made Simon and Andrew leave behind everything they knew to follow Jesus? What kinds of excuses might they have made instead of following right away?

Why is it significant that these men left their nets to follow Jesus?

How did you react when Jesus called you out? Did you fight against it, ignore it, or drop your net and go?

**2. Read Mark 1:19-20.**

How do you think Zebedee felt when James and John left to follow Jesus?

How does this call fit with the command of Scripture to obey and honor parents?

What kind of sacrifices have you had to make as you have followed Jesus? Has following Him ever cost you anything?

**3. Read John 21:1-3**

What are the spiritual implications of their failure to catch fish this night?

To what tasks has God called His church today?

In what ways do we sin against God when we fail to follow through on the tasks, He has given us?

**Dig Deeper: (Designed for deeper discussion regarding the text)**

***Mark 1:16-18***

*Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 17And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” 18And immediately they left their nets and followed him.*

Points from the sermon:

* Drop the excuses.
	+ - If the Holy Spirit indwells you are more than qualified to share the Gospel.
		- You are uniquely suited to reach certain types of people.
		- Evangelism is not merely a calling for a select few, but the mission of us all.
		- The message of the gospel is important enough for a little awkwardness.

What are some obstacles that people face when it comes to following Jesus?

How would you explain the action of the disciples in your own words to someone that does not believe in Jesus?

Read Matthew 28:18-20, how does this verse challenge you in your faith today? What does it mean that our desire to share the gospel not be based in guilt but rather in love?

Read Romans 1:16, when you read or hear this verse, how is it good news for you? (when it mentions “salvation is everyone who believes) What does it look like in your life today to not be ashamed of the gospel?

***Mark 1:19-20***

***19****And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets.****20****And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.*

* Remember to follow is to fish.
	+ - Jesus agenda for His first followers in His agenda for you.
		- Fishing provides you an escape from the temporal and a taste of the eternal.
		- Refusing to fish is refusing to grow.

Read this CS Lewis quote: “Nothing is truly yours until you share it.” How does this verse help you to understand about your faith? What does it mean to own your faith?

Read 2 Corinthians 4: 7-12. The treasure mentioned in these verses is the gospel message. What do these verses say then of our lives? Why do people need to see Jesus in our lives today?

***John 21:1-3***

*Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way:  2Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3“I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.*

* Start casting.
	+ - Believe God can and will use you.
* Ask God to use you.
	+ - Boldness starts with a request.
* Watch how you live your story.
	+ - Living the gospel gives you greater opportunity to share the gospel
		- Anything that grieves the Holy Spirit of God limits your effectiveness and damages your hearing.
* Be willing to share your story
	+ - Fishing is ultimately being willing to do in the life of another what someone did for you.

Read Hebrews 11:6, is there someone in your life that seems to be “seeking God”? How can you help them to hear the gospel?

Read 1 Peter 3:15, if being prepared means that we not only know the gospel but also how it impacted our life, how can we share it? Read Acts 8:29, how did Philip demonstrate “always being prepared”?

**Do:**

**How does viewing Jesus’ calling in this way change the way you view your responsibility as a Christian?**

**Are there any “nets” you are still holding onto? Why?**

**What is one practical step you are going to take to make sure that you are fishing for people?**

**Write down someone’s name that you can begin to pray for this week and prepare to share the gospel with.**