



**Educate
+ Engage**



OUR MISSION
IS FISHING



A Reel Life:
Living the Life of
a Fisher of Men

OVERVIEW

Jesus called Peter and Andrew to follow Him in Matthew 4. Since they were fishermen, Jesus related their life's purpose to their trade. He told them that as they followed Him, He would make them fishers of men. We have been made on purpose and with a purpose, which is to win souls and make disciples. In this series we learn how to be fishers of people.

This lesson focuses on creating a lifestyle conducive to discipling others.

Scripture Passage

Mathew 4:18-20 (NKJV)

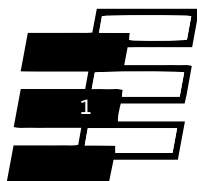
And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

EDUCATE

We have been learning about evangelism. The metaphor of being fishers of men is the same one Jesus used. The call to follow God is always tied to a call to go and lead others to follow Him as well.

Have you ever felt like church was boring? If we are honest, we can all get to a place where church becomes stale. Have you ever heard of the Dead Sea? What makes it dead? It's dead because there is no outlet for the water. Just like that sea, when we become consumers only and not givers, we can become stagnant in our walk with God.

Point 1: The best life we can live is when we live in a daily relationship with God and actively win souls and make disciples. The greatest commandment is to love God and the second is to love others. We will find fulfillment by living a "reel life." It's a life where we are fishers of people. You and I will find so much joy when we are doing what we are called to do. Good fishermen keep their fishing reels and tackle boxes ready to go because they don't only want to be prepared on the day they intend to go fishing. Our mission is fishin', and we must go and fulfill that mission.



So, how do we live a reel life? By committing to live out what we've learned during this series:

1. Connect with others by meeting them on common ground.
2. Invite people to a Bible study.
3. Don't just ask but schedule a time to help ensure the conversation happens.
4. Teach them the Word of God and lead them to holy ground.
5. Then, follow up with them!

Discussion Questions: How do you feel when you invest in others?

Point 2: Let's consider two more essential keys to being a fisher of people. First, we must follow up with those we've been investing in, interceding for, and inviting to Jesus. Before, during, and after a Bible study we must continue to invest in that relationship. Some fish will be caught on the first cast. Being born again is the essential first step, but that's not all! We need to be sure to continue to disciple people into fully devoted followers of Jesus.

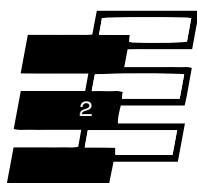
Some fish take a while after the hook is set before you can actually reel them in. In fishing terms, that process is called running. You have to let the fish run so they don't break the line. Don't try to force or coerce people; allow God's Word to appeal to their hearts.

Some fish are more cautious about what they eat. Sometimes people won't immediately be receptive to God, but we must continue to invest. We can't get frustrated in the process. Sometimes you won't catch fish in a certain body of water. That doesn't mean you never return to that pond. Maybe you should try a different bait and method. Remember, catching fish is an art not a science.

No matter the circumstance, we should follow up and continue to invest in building relationships. The ultimate goal is to help people experience new birth salvation, but we should continue to be their friends no matter where they are in the journey. Our mission is fishin'. It is about evangelism and discipleship! The reel life calls us not to allow fishing to be a one-time thing but a way of life. The reel life is about following up with people you've led to Jesus Christ and continuing to lead others to Him.

Discussion Questions: What are some obstacles that arise when teaching Bible studies, and how might we overcome them?

Point 3: The analogy of fishing for men can get a little weird and fall apart when we talk about what to do with the fish once you catch them. We definitely don't throw the fish back in the



water spiritually. The analogy of being a fisher of men does have a key principle in that Peter and Andrew had a plan for what to do after catching the fish. When following up, we must have a plan just as we did when trying to catch and reach them. The plan is to ensure they continue to grow in God. After they've been born again for a few months, they may have a question about certain habits in their life. We should share the Word of God to continue to help them grow. Maybe they're in a service and the gifts of the Spirit are demonstrated, and they are confused. We should share the Word of God with them to teach them more.

It is important to realize that the mission of fishin' is both evangelism and discipleship. As we continue to follow Christ, we lead others to Him and develop others to be fully devoted followers of Him. We must do our best to have a plan and follow through with that plan to keep people growing in God. A great method is to get them involved with the church beyond consistent attendance and help them find meaningful ways to serve and engage with fellow believers.

Discussion Question: What are some more examples of how we can continue to help others grow?

Closing

We've learned about going, reaching, and keeping. Take a moment to write down a practical plan to continue to follow up. We must invest in relationships, intercede in prayer, and invite people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Then, as we've learned in this lesson, we must follow up with a plan that includes getting them to consistently attend church and become involved.

ENGAGE

We've been consistently praying and reaching for the person whose name we wrote down a few weeks ago. Today we made a plan. Let's pray for three things:

1. That the person we've been reaching will be led to a saving relationship with Jesus
2. As they are being developed into a fully devoted follower of Jesus, that they will find a meaningful place of service with fellow believers
3. That we live the "reel life" by following Christ, going and reaching others, and discipling those we reach

God wants to use you! You are made on purpose and with a purpose. Our mission is fishin'—let's go fishin'!

