

GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Get Into The Word



Week of Sunday November 30, 2025

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**Living out our God-given calling as
we follow Jesus and make
disciples every day.**

Introduction

Following Jesus transforms lives, as demonstrated in Matthew 4:18-22 when He called Simon, Andrew, James, and John from ordinary fishing to become "fishers of people." Jesus's invitation wasn't just about leaving their old way of life but embracing a new purpose. Today, consider how you might step away from the "fish-bowl environments" that stunt your spiritual growth. Reflect on how you can actively participate in both evangelism and discipleship, casting nets to share God's love and repairing those nets by equipping yourself and others in faith.

Disciple Measure

Humble Guide: Who are you helping take one step closer to Jesus right now? How are you doing that?

Discussion Questions

What Does it Mean to Be a Disciple of Jesus

HIGHLIGHT

Have someone read aloud...

Matthew 4:18-22

Discussion Questions

Discuss the following questions...

Opening Question: What's one skill or hobby you had to learn from someone else? What made them a good teacher or mentor?

1. How does the calling of the first disciples deviate from the traditional Jewish approach to discipleship at the time?
2. What might it have felt like for the fishermen to leave everything behind to follow Jesus? How does this decision reflect their faith and trust in him?
3. How are the actions of casting and repairing nets, as depicted in the fishermen's activities, symbolic of the processes of evangelism and discipleship in the Christian faith?
4. How does this passage inform the understanding of evangelism and discipleship as interconnected components of the Christian mission.

Notes:

Have someone read aloud Matthew 28:19-20.

Discuss the following questions...

1. What specific actions can you take to "cast your net" in your community or workplace in order to share your faith and invite others to learn about Jesus?
2. Reflecting on Jesus' call to his disciples, what areas of your life might you need to leave behind in order to fully pursue a relationship with Christ?
3. In what ways can you accept Jesus' invitation to "follow him" in practical daily decisions, and how can this commitment impact your personal and spiritual development?

Consider the people in your life who might feel unqualified for spiritual leadership. (maybe thats you) How can you encourage them (or yourself) by sharing the lesson that Jesus can use anyone willing to follow him for great purposes?

Close by praying to thank God for the life-changing invitation to follow Him, and ask the Lord for boldness with the gospel and as a disciple maker.

Questions for Families

Here are some questions you can discuss with the whole family.

Matthew 4:18-22

What did Jesus ask the fishermen to do when he called them?

Encourage younger children to use simple words like "follow" or "come with me." For older kids and teenagers guide them to understand that Jesus was inviting the fishermen to be his disciples, to learn from him, and to eventually teach others.

Why do you think the fishermen left their nets and boats to follow Jesus?

Help younger children to think about trust and excitement, like following a teacher or parent they love. For older kids and teenagers discuss the idea of faith and the willingness to leave behind their comfort zones for something greater.

How can we 'follow Jesus' in our everyday life just like the fishermen did?

For young children encourage simple actions like being kind to friends can be examples of following Jesus. For older kids and teenagers encourage them to consider ways they can share kindness, help others, and grow in their faith by participating in activities like youth groups or volunteering.

NT 260

WEEK: 49

- Matthew 9
- Matthew 10
- Matthew 11
- Matthew 12
- Matthew 13

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 7:21-23

Resources

Additional Resources

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast - Jesus's Method For Making Disciples



Join Pastor Robby as he dives into the call of the first [disciples](#).

Resources to Watch

Bible Project Guide - The Book of Matthew



See a collection of videos and articles to guide you through the book of [Matthew](#).
(20 min)

Bible Project Guide - Sermon on the Mount Series



See a collection of videos overviewing the themes from the [Sermon on the Mount](#).
(20 min)

Life Group Resources

We have a variety of resources and are continually adding new ones. Some of our resources include group launch guides, on-demand training modules, and curriculum resources. To request a resource, reach out to us at groups@longhollow.com.

D-Group Resources

If you or someone you know would like to start a D-group, we have everything you need, including reading plans, journals, and a launch guide to walk you through the first four meetings.



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Commentary

Notes:

What's Going On?

In Matthew 4:18-22, we find an important moment where Jesus is calling his first disciples by the Sea of Galilee. He sees Simon Peter and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, simply going about their daily work as fishermen. It's then that Jesus gives them a life-changing invitation: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." Almost instantly, they drop everything and follow him.

The scene shifts to another set of brothers, James and John, who are mending their nets in a boat with their father. Without hesitation, they too leave their work and family to follow Jesus. Matthew tells us this story with a sense of urgency, using the word "immediately" to show the readiness of these men to change their lives. The emphasis on their prompt response contributes to the passage's impact, demonstrating the compelling nature of Jesus's call. This narrative doesn't just highlight the power of Jesus's words, it also sets an example of faithful obedience and willingness to embrace a new mission for those who read the Gospel.

Biblical Timeline



Notes:

A Bit of Background

Jesus's invitation to Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John took place by the Sea of Galilee, a large freshwater lake in the region where Jesus carried out much of his ministry. Fishing was a common occupation in Galilee, essential for local communities' livelihoods. These men weren't scholars or religious leaders; they were regular working people. During this period in Jewish culture, it was customary for students to seek out rabbis to follow and learn from, rather than rabbis choosing their students.

This makes Jesus's approach quite remarkable he reverses the norm by actively calling out his disciples. This highlights Jesus's unique authority and the personal nature of his invitation; he sees potential in those society might overlook. The historical setting underscores the radical decision of these men to leave their nets. Their choice to follow Jesus meant leaving behind not just a job, but their entire way of life and their security, answering a call to be part of a mission that would transform them and the world. Jesus's invitation wasn't just to follow in the literal sense but to embrace a life dedicated to spreading his message.

Sermon on the Mount
approx. 27 A.D.

Birth of
Christ

Crucifixion
and Resurrection

Book of
Revelation

Today's highlighted
passage and other
related passages

Sermon Notes

Matthew 4:18-22 CSB

As he was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter), and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea for they were fishermen. “Follow me,” he told them, “and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father, preparing their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

(Get digital notes on your mobile device at notes.longhollow.com)

Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

Spirit-Led Follower

A disciple who walks with Jesus daily, anchoring their lives to God's Word and obediently following the Holy Spirit where He leads.

Intentional Friend

A disciple who is always looking for ways to care for others and meet their needs. This is a practical way to be present in the lives of those around us.

Humble Guide

A disciple who is a humble guide takes every opportunity to help people take their next step closer to Jesus. This is someone who is constantly looking for opportunities to have Gospel conversations and speak truth into someone's life.

Force For Good

When a disciple lives out their God-given calling, they naturally become a force for good where they live, work, and play. This type of person is looking for opportunities to meet needs, heal brokenness, and bring tangible hope to the people in their life and in their community.



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