



{INVITATIONS}

LISTEN.

GONE FISHING: Recovering the Joy of Our Mission

Matthew 4:12-23

GETTING STARTED

Describe a mission or cause you were/are connected to that really motivates you to give your time or energies.

How did you connect to this cause?

READ AND REFLECT

Read Matthew 4:12-23.

This passage connects three different “sections” in Matthew 4 (Remember Scripture originally did not have bold headings and sections like our English translations do today). What big ideas jump out to you in this passage?

What is the significance of Jesus’ words in 4:17 and his actions in 4:23?

Does it seem strange to you (today) how the first disciples responded to Jesus (4:18-20)? Why or why not?

Read Luke 19:10. How does this mission relate to followers of Jesus?

Describe your understanding of Jesus’ mission. Do you observe the church embodying this same mission today? How so (or not)?

ENGAGE AND DISCUSS

What is your confidence level to reaching out to others with the love of Jesus?

What do you think it takes to be an effective witness to the mission of Jesus?

There are very subtle phrases in our Bible text that indicate a secret to intersecting the lives of others around us. Phrases like, "As Jesus went along...Going from there...Jesus went through Galilee..." show us that Jesus lived a *lifestyle of mission* simply by being available to the people he encountered on his way. His invitations, encouragement and healings met people where they were as he went along.

- Think about your last day (or week). Who did you encounter? What needs were present?
- In looking back, do you see opportunities you could have "fished for men" (or women...or families)?

Describe our witness, outreach, or mission passion as a church? What would a church look like who people individually and corporately had great passion for "going fishing".

- How would our church change if we embodied Jesus' mission?
- How would you change in you embodied this mission?

NEXT STEPS

Pay attention this week to the people you encounter as you journey through your days. Listen for opportunities to extend encouragement, pray with others, initiate a meaningful conversation, extend an invitation to church, or simply use you natural gifts to serve others in some way.

Report back to your group your experience(s).