

**Sermon Discussion Guide**  
**Sunday, January 10, 2021**  
**What on Earth Is A “Fisher of Men”?**  
**Matthew 4: 18-22**

Jesus extends an invitation to some fishermen (he has met them before), “Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” What does the invitation mean? What does it mean to be a “fisher of men”?

1. Ironically, Jesus is fishing for men when he issues this invitation. In what sense?
2. The sermon looked at this invitation to help define what it means to be a disciple. Jesus begins with, “Come, follow me.” What does it mean to follow Jesus?

Many of the rabbis of Jesus’ day had disciples that they were mentoring. “Disciple” means learner, but it did not mean that you were just in someone’s class. A disciple was agreeing to be with a rabbi consistently over an extended period of time. The disciple was to learn not only from the rabbi’s teaching but also by seeing how he lived. The disciple was also giving the rabbi some authority to speak into his life. That would include instruction, but also correction.

3. What do you think would be some of the benefits and challenges of such a discipleship relationship?
4. Jesus said, “...I will make you...” A transformation process in which Jesus is changing us is part of being his disciple. Is it exciting or scary to think that Jesus wants to make you into something?

Jesus himself is the best example of what it means to be a fisher of men. His disciples were his “fish”, but he was going to teach them how to fish. So, the idea is that the fish become the fishermen (sounds a little bit cannibalistic). We can sometimes make the mistake of thinking this is only meant for the apostles or for church leaders. But this was meant to be the norm for all believers. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus commissioned the Church (all of his followers) to make disciples. We are all called to be disciples of Jesus, and we are all called to reproduce ourselves by making disciples.

5. One of the reasons we don’t make disciples is that we don’t feel competent to make them. This is particularly a problem if we have never been disciplined ourselves. Have you had a significant discipleship relationship that has impacted your life deeply? Share with the group.
6. We sometimes speak a word of challenge or encouragement to somebody and we call that discipleship, but that is very different from what Jesus did. What is the difference?
7. Dependency on the church to grow people can undermine discipleship. How so?
8. When each disciple makes a disciple who makes another disciple, we call that multiplying discipleship. The disciples are multiplying or reproducing themselves and the result is generations of disciples coming from each disciple. This is Jesus’ methodology. It is his plan to change the world. Why does it make sense that we would seek to grow people Jesus’ way?
9. What is our motivation to be disciples who make disciples? Think of Gospel motivation. Why is Jesus worthy to be served?