

Sermon Discussion Guide

Encounters with Jesus: Four Fishermen
Matthew 4:18-22
January 11 & 12, 2020

Part 1: Pray

Every time we study God's word, we should ask God to give us the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts, teach us and mold us into who he created us to be. Ask God to reveal his truth to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases or major themes.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. As we continue in our "Encounters with Jesus" sermon series, what are some major themes that you're learning about the idea of encountering Jesus?
2. Ray referenced a recent episode of *The Crown* when Prince Philip described the funeral of 80+ children, "breaking him into 1,000 pieces." Have you or someone you know ever had an experience like that?

Four Fishermen: The Summons

1. Ray explained that Jesus came not just to live and die and rise from the dead for us, but to also be a teacher. What does this mean and how does it change how we perceive Christianity?

2. Traditionally, pupils would approach a teacher and ask to be led. Jesus' model was opposite of this. What are the implications of his counterintuitive approach. Consider what it means that Jesus' words, "follow me" are a command not a recommendation.
3. The call of Jesus in our lives is that of a king taking claim on what is his. How does the principle sit with our American values of independence and self-reliance?
4. We are tempted to believe that God exists for us, not the other way around? Why is the former so much easier to believe and live out of?

Four Fishermen: The Submission

1. Following Jesus means total and complete surrender. To submit means to follow him immediately in every area of our lives. What parts of your life do you find most challenging to submit to God? In what ways have you seen God work and flourish in the areas where you have/are submitting to him?
2. Ray explained that submitting to God means acknowledging that God is the boss of our lives and he is not obligated to come through on our happiness. Reflect on this idea.
3. There were two specific areas of application Ray cited where we need to do a better job submitting - being in worship regularly and raising obedient children. Talk about the importance of these two things (among so many others).

Four Fishermen: The Mission

1. Following Jesus puts us on the new and exciting mission to join him in “catching men.” What does this mean and why is this new mission so exciting?
2. Ray explained that our work, like fishing in the dark and stormy and troubled waters of the sea, means that we enter into the dark and scary places of peoples lives to give them the light of the gospel. Have you had the experience of doing this kind of work? Did someone come “fishing” for you at some point in your life?
3. Would you say that you’ve be summoned to this mission of following Jesus? Perhaps you’re encountering Jesus in the midst of your group study of this sermon series. If so, describe how God is at work in your life.

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow him?