

Home Group Discussion Questions

Sunday January 16th

Fruitful and Faithful Fishers of Men

Ice-breaker: Can you remember the time when you began to understand (or understood clearly for the first time) who Jesus was or when you first responded to his call?

Question: Was there anything that particularly spoke to you in the sermon this Sunday? Or that you disagreed with or were confused about?

A. Intro and Summary:

This Sunday we considered the call of the disciples at the Sea of Galilee and in particular how to be fruitful and faithful as followers of Jesus Christ. The points Martin made in the sermon were:

- 1. Teach them the Word of God**
- 2. Obey Jesus' Commands**
- 3. Expect Some Mess**
- 4. Be Humbled by Grace**
- 5. Value Jesus above Everything Else**

Read Luke 5:1-11

Before looking at each specific point...

Question: Thinking more widely than just this passage, what do you think it means to be fruitful and faithful as Christ's disciples?

[Consider the following: John 13:35; Matt 28: 19-20; John 14:15; Col 3:12-17; Gal 5:22-23].

1. Teach them the Word of God

Question: Why might teaching God's word to friends, neighbours, colleagues and fellow students sometimes feel like 'drip-feeding a baby with a pipette of milk?' How do you think this can be done, practically?

2. Obey Jesus' Commands

Question: [v5 and 10]: What things does Jesus ask Peter to do and in what order? Why the progression, do you think? What can we learn from this?

Question: Why is it significant that Peter responds to Jesus as 'Master' in verse 5? How easy do you find it to willingly submit to Jesus as Master?

3. Expect Some Mess

Question: Can you think of a time when, in the heat of the moment, God's goodness and blessing in your life did not look like it was a blessing? (Like the breaking nets full of fish & sinking boats might have appeared to the disciples here). How did you come to see things differently?

When things seem to be going wrong, what can we do to maintain our trust in God? [Consider: 1 Thess 5:15-18; 1 Tim 6:6-8; Phil 4:11-13].

Question: Apart from the possibility that Jesus was teaching them to expect some mess, what else might this catch have been meant to convey to them, and to us?

4. Be humbled by grace

Question: There is a temptation to respond to God's blessing in your life by comparing it to what others aren't enjoying and think 'look how much God has blessed me' and secretly think, 'and how much more so me than you'. How can we deal with this kind of attitude in our hearts? How can we cultivate humility as a response to God's grace and blessing?

Question: How does Jesus respond to Peter's plea for him to leave? Why do you think Jesus doesn't address Peter's sinfulness at this point? What does Jesus talk about instead and what encouragement is there for us in this?

5. Value Jesus above Everything Else

Question: Read Matthew 13:44. What do you think C.S. Lewis meant when he referred to God as 'the Supremely Valuable'?

Question: Read 1 Tim 6:17-19. Martin said that 'we can get caught up in God's blessing on our lives – the material blessing of job and finances, the blessing of family and friends, the blessings of living in a country like Switzerland'. How do we keep a good balance between enjoying the blessings of God while not making them our focus?

Question: Does Jesus require every one of his disciples to leave everything? If not, why not? And if so, what does that look like?

[Consider the following: Mark 8:34-36; Matt 19:21-30]