

Fish for People



As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. (Matthew 4:18-20)

1. Fish and fishing are favorite metaphors for Jesus and the Gospels

- Most of Jesus' ministry was spent _____.

Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles--the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. (Matthew 4:15-16)

- References to fish and fishing occur _____ times in the Gospels (NIV). _____ of the apostles were fishermen.
- Indeed, an acronym spelling "fish" in Greek can be made from the words Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior. Hence, the fish became _____.

I esous
Ch ristos
Th eou
Y ios
S oter



2. To fish for people is to make disciples. Jesus fished for people.

- Jesus called twelve men and disciplined them for three years.

Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve—designating them apostles--that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons. (Mark 3:13-15)

- To disciple the twelve, Jesus gathered them, lived life with them, loved them, trained them, empowered them, and commissioned them.
- The only way to make disciples is how Jesus did it—relationally. Disciples are _____, or they are not made at all.
- Jesus' last words: "Now you go make disciples." Jesus final command must be _____.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

3. The big question: Are you fishing?

- Somewhere down the line many of us decided to _____.
- Ed Stetzer's recent study in evangelism reveals that, though 80% of those who attend church one or more times a month believe they have a personal responsibility to share their faith, only 39% have shared their faith in the last 6 months. Only 52% have invited an unchurched person to a church program in the last 6 months. And only 41% regularly pray for lost people.
- Most Christians will die _____.
- Jesus calls us to fish for people. Are you fishing?

4. What Now? Will you make these commitments with me?

- Decide that this is the year that you begin openly witnessing Christ to the world.
- Write down the names of three lost people and pray for them daily.
- Invite them to talk about spirituality with you, then share the Gospel. Love them enough to invest in their lives; don't make them _____.
- Make this the year you discover the joy of bringing someone to Christ.

Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? (Luke 11:9-11)

