

How to Become a Fisherman for Jesus

Introduction:

1. Romans 5:1
2. This is certainly good news, but not if you don't hear it. Have you ever been the last one in your family to hear about something wonderful that happened and you say, "Why didn't anybody tell me?"
3. Good news is meant to be shared. We have been studying the story of the day Peter became a follower of Jesus Christ. Luke 5:1-11
4. But before this event ever happened, Peter had been introduced to Christ by his brother. It was my brother who did the same for me. Jesus told Peter and the disciples, "I am going to make you fishers of men." What does that mean? Jesus is saying, "I am going to use you to bring others to me."
5. Let's see how God uses human relationships to share the good news.
 - John 1:6-8 – John the Baptist was a forerunner of Jesus Christ. God revealed to John that his own cousin (Jesus) was the Messiah, the Son of God. vs. 29-34
 - John gets it – he understands.
 - Let's move on to verses 35-39. There are two men that are hanging out with John. They hear him say, "This is Him!" and the next day they come to Jesus. Why? John went fishing. But it gets better.
 - One of them was Andrew (vs. 40). What does he do? He goes fishing. He finds his brother, Simon Peter (vs. 41-42). Peter is introduced to Jesus and a seed is planted that day. Why? Peter's brother, Andrew, went fishing for Peter.
 - Now look at verse 43 - How did this happen? In verse 44, it reveals that Andrew and Peter must have gone fishing for Philip.
 - In verse 45, Philip goes fishing for Nathaniel and he also would become a disciple of Jesus Christ.
6. This incredible story continues today. People fishing for people and sharing the good news with those they have relationships with. No technology will ever replace a personal relationship. There is nothing more powerful than this. (Video)
7. The gospel of Jesus Christ surges through the network of human relationships. It is so natural, so powerful, so effective, so life-changing, so simple, yet so timeless.

8. If you know Jesus, no matter who you are or what your personality type or what your background, Jesus wants to make you a fisher of souls.
9. Do you want your life to really have special meaning and to make eternal impact? Then you must become the fisherman that God intended for you to be. How can you be used of God to bring others to Jesus? There are three key fishing holes that you need to focus on.

First fishing hole - your family.

1. Let's look at a few Bible examples of this:
 - The ruler's son was healed and he ended up reaching his entire family. John 4:53
 - Lydia (her entire household). Acts 16:14-15
 - The Philippian jailor (his entire family). Acts 16:30-34
2. Let's apply this. Think about your immediate family, but also your extended family (brothers, sisters, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces, parents, etc.)
3. Are there some that do not know Christ as Savior? God wants to use you to be a fisher of men and share the good news, helping to bring them to Jesus. You can be that fisher of men that God wants you to be!

Second fishing hole - your friends.

1. Let's look at a few Bible examples of this:
 - The maniac of Godara (Mark 5:19) - he was in such bondage to Satan that he was psychotic. Jesus said, "Go and tell your friends." He wanted to just hang out with Jesus, but Jesus said, "No, you have some fishing to do."
 - When a person gets saved, they have on average 12 friends who don't know Jesus. After a few years that number drops to four. Why is this? We are like this guy. All we want to do is hang out with the Jesus crowd.
 - Remember, Jesus was a friend of sinners. He came to seek and to save that which was lost. He knew there were fish to catch, and today, it is our job.
 - Cornelius (Acts 10:24) - He fished for family **and** friends. They all came to faith in Jesus Christ.
2. Do you have any friends that do not know Christ as Savior? What a great fishing hole. You have good news that could change their life!

Third fishing hole - your associates.

1. What do I mean by this? Those you associate with by virtue of work, the same ball team, the gym, beautician, college, school, club, golf course, etc. It's the people you see on a regular basis.
2. Who is going to fish for their souls and bring them to Jesus? Think about it – you know Jesus, and you know them. They are in your life for a reason.
3. A great Bible example is Mark 2:14-17.
 - Matthew comes to Jesus (vs. 14). The next scene, they are eating in Matthew's house and he has invited all his co-workers to come and dine with Jesus. vs. 15
4. It would be like you inviting your co-workers over, or the ball-team, or your club from school, or some college classmates, or your ladies group, etc.
5. You say, "One of them might do or say something inappropriate." The Pharisees were worried about that too (vs. 16). What was Jesus' answer? vs. 17
6. We need to put aside our sanctimonious attitude and be a friend of sinners like Jesus. Why? Those are the fish that Jesus is trying to catch!

In Conclusion:

1. God created you in Christ Jesus to become a fisher of men. True disciples reproduce. We lead others to Jesus.
2. You don't have to memorize 50 verses of the Bible, or have perfect attendance for a year at church, or be a "perfect" Christian to be a fisher of men. You simply have to:
 - Care – Christ's love is communicated by your caring.
 - Be a friend – people that don't know Christ need a friend who knows Christ.
 - Pray – Romans 10:1
 - Share – be honest with them and tell them what Christ has done in your life.
3. Will you decide today to launch out with Christ and become the fisher of men and women that God desires for you to be? I want to have people come up to me in heaven and say, "Thank you for putting out Jesus' net to bring me to God."