

“FOLLOWING JESUS: FISH TRICKS”
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1. FOLLOW JESUS BY READING THE 4 GOSPEL ACCOUNTS IN THE BIBLE, AND TWO THINGS BECOME CLEAR:

- A. BEING A SINNER DOES NOT DISQUALIFY YOU FROM FOLLOWING JESUS.**
- B. BEING AN UNBELIEVER DOES NOT DISQUALIFY YOU EITHER.**
- C. ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE FOLLOW(ED) JESUS.**

2. REVIEW OF LAST TWO WEEKS

- A. JOHN THE BAPTIST DRAWS ATTENTION TO JESUS.**
- B. JESUS OVERCOMES TEMPTATION AND USHERS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

3. JESUS IS ABOUT TO DO SOME HEALING AND SOME CALLING

- A. PEOPLE OFTEN ASSOCIATE SIN WITH SICKNESS.**
- B. YOU CAN'T SEE A SIN FORGIVEN, BUT YOU CAN SEE MIRACLES.**

4. THE MIRACLE FOR THE FIRST DISCIPLES BEGAN WITH AN INVITATION TO FISH

On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, ²and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." (Luke 5:1-5)

A. WE OFTEN HAVE NO IDEA OF WHAT HANGS IN THE BALANCE WHEN JESUS ASKS US TO DO SOMETHING.

⁶And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁷They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." ⁹For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." ¹¹And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him. (Luke 5:6-11)

- B. WHEN WE SAY YES, JESUS WILL GET A NEW TITLE FROM US: LORD.**
- C. SEE HIM HEAL, SEE HIM PERFORM A MIRACLE, HEAR HIM CALL, AND FOLLOW HIM.**
- D. THIS IS YOUR MOST POWERFUL OUTREACH TOOL: HOW JESUS CALLED YOU.**

5. PETER TAKES HIS TURN TO SAY, "LOOK!"

Memory Verse

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
By his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24)

A. TAKE YOUR TURN TO SAY "BUT AT YOUR WORD..."

GOING DEEPER

- 1. "Being a sinner doesn't disqualify you from following Jesus. It's a prerequisite." How does that idea challenge your assumptions about following Jesus?
- 2. Read Luke 5:1–7. Have you ever chosen to trust God even though doing so didn't seem to make sense at the time? If so, what happened?
- 3. Read Luke 5:8–11. Are you currently afraid that God is separating Himself from you because of your sin? How might your life and faith be different if you were able to put aside that fear and trust Him?
- 4. Read 1 Peter 2:23–24 aloud together. On a scale of 1 to 10, how well does your life reflect the truth that by Jesus' wounds *you* have been healed?
- 5. In what area of your life do you need to dial up your trust in Jesus? What is your best next step?