

Spring 2019!

Life Group Quarter

Week 6

Message Date 5/12/19

MY STORY

- 1) What is one moment of your experience in Life Groups that has been significant in your life?
- 2) What was your takeaway from last week's study?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

The Goal

This week we are continuing our study in Matthew Chapter 4. We are picking up the story with John the Baptist being arrested and Jesus beginning His ministry. We will unpack the similarities between the initial messages of Jesus and John. Then in the *Taking It Home* section we will be discussing Jesus' call of the first disciples. The goal this week is to understand what it means to follow Jesus so we can experience the results He produces in us.

DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 4:12-17 (NLT)

¹² When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he left Judea and returned to Galilee. ¹³ He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵ "In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali,
beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River,
in Galilee where so many Gentiles live,

¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light.

And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow,
a light has shined."

¹⁷ From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." ⁱ

- 4) Why would Jesus wait for John to be arrested before He began His preaching?

He was the fulfillment of John's prophecy in Matt 3:11 (ESV). "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."ⁱⁱ

- 5) In verse 14, Matthew is sharing another prophecy that Jesus fulfilled in the beginning of His ministry; why is this important?

Prophecy, in this type of context, is always a foretelling of something that is going to happen. Jesus being the fulfillment of prophecy is evidence of His identity and should instill greater confidence in our faith.

- 6) Verse 16 has some powerful imagery; what does it mean? "And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined."

- 7) What is Jesus' initial message?

"Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."

- 8) Whose message does this sound like?

John the Baptist preached the same message.

- 9) If Jesus' first messages sounded like John the Baptist, how would they have been received by the people? (Remember that many were traveling up to 20 miles to hear John teach.)

They would have believed Him to be the one John was talking about.

- 10) Two weeks ago, we unpacked the idea of repentance and how it is not only feeling sorry but also turning away 180 degrees from the direction we are headed. Why is it important to continue this practice in our lives?

Pastor Craig taught us how unrepentance is like trying to swim through muddy waters and repentance helps us clear the water in our lives so we can see more clearly.

- 11) Why is repentance so important for our relationship with Christ?

Without it we are stuck in our sins and they cloud our vision of others and life around us.

We are going to take a look at Jesus' call of His first disciples. What can we learn from His call, and how can we apply the disciples' responses to our own lives?

TAKING IT HOME

Matthew 4:18-22(NLT)

¹⁸ One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. ¹⁹ Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" ²⁰ And they left their nets at once and followed him.

²¹ A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too. ²² They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind. ⁱⁱⁱ

- 12) Who does Jesus meet along the Sea of Galilee, and what does He say to them?

Peter and Andrew, his brother. "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!"

13) Verse 19 in the ESV reads as, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” What is our part in Jesus’ invitation?

To follow Him.

14) What does it mean to follow Him, and how do we put it into practice?

To follow means to have a relationship with Him. We do this through prayer and reading His Word. We also do this through repentance and a willingness to surrender to His leading. We follow His direction and example of how He loved and treated others. The only way to truly follow is to know His story through the Word.

15) What does Jesus say He will do for those who follow Him?

The ESV reads this way, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”^{iv}

16) What does it mean to fish for men?

To encourage people to follow Jesus through our life and our love for them.

17) Who are you praying for in hope of the opportunity to share your story with?

18) What did the disciples do with Jesus’ invitation?

They left everything and followed Him.

19) Where are the places Jesus is calling you to fish for men?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Read Mark 1:16-20 and Luke 5:1-11 and meditate on the following questions.

20) What do these books have in common regarding Jesus’ calling of the first disciples?

21) What are the differences? Remember these are different accounts and different authors felt that different aspects of the story were more important than others. So, we get different details to help us understand the full picture.

22) What is your takeaway from this week’s study?

ⁱ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Mt 4:12–17.

ⁱⁱ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Mt 3:11.

ⁱⁱⁱ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Mt 4:18–22.

^{iv} *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Mt 4:19.