

Life Group Homework

For the week of May 12, 2019

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?

DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 4:12-17 (NLT)

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

¹⁶the 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."

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

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

4. Why would Jesus wait for John to be arrested before He began His preaching?
5. In verse 14, Matthew is sharing another prophecy that Jesus fulfilled in the beginning of His ministry; why is this important?
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?

8. Whose message does this sound like?
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.)
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?
11. Why is repentance so important for our relationship with Christ?

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)

¹⁸One 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. ¹⁹Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" ²⁰And they left their nets at once and followed him.

²¹A 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. ²²They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind.

12. Who does Jesus meet along the Sea of Galilee, and what does He say to them?
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?
14. What does it mean to follow Him, and how do we put it into practice?
15. What does Jesus say He will do for those who follow Him?
16. What does it mean to fish for men?

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

Matthew 4:12-16 NLT

Darkness causes things to appear dim.

Light illuminates everything.

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?

Matthew 4:17 NLT

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

A repentant heart allows for course correction instead of a collision.

The Kingdom of Heaven provides: Peace not chaos, Light not darkness, Hope not despair, Plenty not lack, Freedom not bondage and Confidence not insecurity.

Challenge:

How will you use your time, talent and treasure?

Prayers for our city:

- We speak the truth that God can and will break the power of addiction in our city and neighbors.
- We speak the truth that God's churches can and will be strong together walking into every room of our city loving God and loving others as we love ourselves.
- We speak the truth that God's church will embody hope and invite our city to join us.