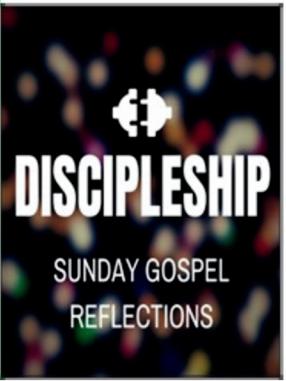


**Theme - Leave the net behind and follow Jesus**

**“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him.”**

(Verses 19,20) Matthew 4:13-22



**Adults** •

1. If Jesus walked up to you today and said, “Come after me and I will make you fishers of men,” what would your response look like? Are you ready to lay down your life and leave everything behind to follow Jesus? If you’re not there yet, what might be holding you back? What could you change today that would help you draw closer to God and his plan for you?
2. The Kingdom of heaven is at hand and in our midst. Jesus said this when he began to preach in Capernaum. What does this statement mean to you? How are you a light and source of unity to others?
3. We, as part of the community of believers, and followers of Jesus have a role to play. We are to go out and spread the good news to all. When was the last time you shared your faith with someone new? What was that experience like for you? How did the other person react to your testimony?

**Obstacles for living out the Gospel:** Not asking ourselves the tough questions...are we ready to lay down our life...are we being good witnesses to our faith...

**Teens** •

1. What do you think it felt like for Simon Peter and Andrew to leave their fishing nets and follow Jesus immediately? Jesus called ordinary people to be His disciples. How does that inspire you in your own faith journey?
2. Jesus’ first disciples didn’t fully know what following Him would involve, but they trusted Him anyway. How can you develop that same kind of trust in God? What things (or nets) would you need to leave behind in your life right now in order to do that?

**Obstacles to living out the Gospel:** Worrying that following Jesus means giving up fun, freedom, or independence.



**Children** •

1. When Jesus called his first disciples to follow him, how do you think they felt?
2. What would you do if Jesus showed up at your school and asked you to follow him? Would you recognize him? Jesus calls us too, what does being a disciple of Jesus look like today? Do you think it would be difficult to leave everything to follow him like the disciples did? Why or why not?
3. We can find comfort in how the apostles walked with Jesus, there were many ups and downs and sometimes they got his message wrong, but they continued to follow Jesus and Jesus did not give up on them. What is the hardest part of following Jesus?

**Obstacles to living out the Gospel:** Not recognizing Jesus calls us to continue the work of the disciples. Not realizing discipleship requires us to say YES to Jesus’ mission.