

Following Jesus Fishing for people

Getting Started

INTRODUCTION

*Jesus said, Follow me, and I will teach you
how to fish for people.*

When Jesus gathered his first group of disciples together he gave them a command and a promise. He commanded them to follow him. A follower is someone who has put their full trust in Jesus and surrendered to him as their king.

Jesus also promised to teach his disciples to fish for people — to make new disciples of others.

These studies are for people who want to follow Jesus and fish for people.

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7 Commands

1. REPENT, BELIEVE AND RECEIVE THE SPIRIT

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Mark 1:14-15

1 Look back

- How are you doing?
- Is there something you can thank God for?
- Have you shared about Jesus with anyone since we last met?
- Practice retelling God's story (pp 20-21)
- Pray for people you know who are not following Jesus.

2. Look up

- Read the story of Zacchaeus: Luke 19:1-10
- Retell the passage in your own words.
- What do you like about this story?
- What does the passage teach us about God or Jesus?
- What does it teach us about the different people in the story?
- Is there a command to obey or an example to follow?

Read Acts 2:37-38. In v38 what does Peter challenge his audience to do? What does he promise God will do?

What do these passages teach us about the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives? John 15:28; 14:15-17; 15:26.

3. Look forward

- Practice telling the story in your own words.
- What will you do this week to obey what you have learned? Specially, how will you obey Jesus' command to repent and believe?
- Who will you share the story with this week?
- Pray for each other.

Assignment

Use the worksheet *Sharing Your Story* (page 18) below to write out your story, and come prepared to share it next time in three minutes.

2. BE BAPTIZED

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Jesus (Matthew 28:19)

1. Look back

- How are you doing?
- Is there something you can thank God for?
- Pray.
- Have you shared Jesus' story with anyone?
- Pray for people you know who are not following Jesus.
- Practice telling your story in three minutes.

2. Look up

- Read the story: Philip and the Ethiopian official Acts 8:26-40
- Retell the passage in your own words.
- What do you like about this story?
- What does the passage teach us about God or Jesus?
- What does it teach us about the people in the story?
- Is there a command to obey or an example to follow?

What do these verses add to our understanding of Jesus command to be baptized?

- Matthew 3:13-16
- Romans 6:3-4

3. Look forward

- Practice telling the story in your own words.
- What will you do this week to obey what you have learned? Specifically how will you obey Jesus' command to receive the Holy Spirit and be baptized.
- Who will you share the story with this week?
- Pray for each other.

3. LOVE

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: *'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

Jesus (Matthew 22:37-39)

1. Look back

- How are you doing?
- Is there something you can thank God for?
- Pray.
- Have you shared your story or Jesus' story with anyone?
- Pray for people you know who are not following Jesus.
- Practice sharing your or Jesus' story.

2. Look up

- Read the story: Good Samaritan from Luke 10:25-37.
- Practice telling the story in your own words.
- What do you like about this story?
- What does the passage teach us about God or Jesus?
- What does it teach us about the people in the story?
- Is there a command to obey or an example to follow?

What do these verses add to our understanding of Jesus' command to love?

- Matthew 22:37-39
- John 13:34
- John 14:15

3. Look forward

- Practice telling the story in your own words.
- What will you do this week to obey what you have learned?
- Who will you share the story with this week?
- Pray for each other.

4. CELEBRATE LORD'S SUPPER

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

Luke 22:19-20

1. Look back

- How are you doing?
- Is there something you can thank God for?
- Pray.
- Have you shared your story or Jesus' story with anyone?
- Pray for people you know who are not following Jesus.
- Practice retelling Jesus story.

2. Look up

- Read the passage: 1 Corinthians 11:23-29
- Retell the passage in your own words.
- What do you like about this story?
- What does the passage teach us about God or Jesus?
- What does it teach us about the people in the story?
- Is there a command to obey or an example to follow?

Questions

- Why do we celebrate the Lord's Supper?
- Who should celebrate the Lord's Supper?
- How should we prepare ourselves for the Lord's Supper?

3. Look forward

- Practice telling the story in your own words.
- What will you do this week to obey what you have learned?
- Who will you share the story with this week?
- Pray for each other.

Assignment: Plan at time to celebrate the Lord's Supper with some other believers.

5. PRAY

This, then, is how you should pray. . .

Jesus (Matthew 6:9)

1. Look back

- How are you doing?
- Is there something you can thank God for?
- Pray.
- Have you shared your story or Jesus' story with anyone?
- Pray for people you know who are not following Jesus.
- Practice retelling Jesus story.

2. Look up

- Read the story: Jesus teaching his disciples to pray: Matthew 6:5-15
- Retell the passage in your own words.
- What do you like about this story?
- What does the passage teach us about God or Jesus?
- What does it teach us about the people in the story?
- Is there a command to obey or an example to follow?

Jesus taught his disciples to pray

- Write out Jesus teaching on how to pray in your own words.
- Use Jesus' teaching on prayer as a guide for praying together. Don't just recite the words, instead pray around each theme.

Jesus' words	Your words
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name	
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven	
Give us today our daily bread.	
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.	
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.	

3. Look forward

- What will you do this week to obey what you have learned?
- Who will you share the story with this week?
- Who could you teach to pray like Jesus taught his disciples to pray?
- Pray for each other.

6. GIVE

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:38

1. Look back

- How are you doing?
- Is there something you can thank God for?
- Pray.
- Have you shared your story or Jesus' story with anyone?
- Pray for people you know who are not following Jesus.
- Practice retelling Jesus story.

2. Look up

- Read the passage: The Widow Gives from Mark 12:41-44.
- Retell the passage in your own words.
- What do you like about this story?
- What does the passage teach us about God or Jesus?
- What does it teach us about the people in the story?
- Is there a command to obey or an example to follow?

What do these verses add to our understanding of generosity?

- 2 Corinthians 8:9
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

3. Look forward

- Practice telling the story in your own words.
- What will you do this week to obey what you have learned?
- **Assignment:** How you will obey Jesus' command to be generous?
- Who will you share the story with this week?
- Pray for each other.

7. MAKE DISCIPLES

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Jesus (Matthew 28:19)

1. Look back

- How are you doing?
- Is there something you can thank God for?
- Pray.
- Have you shared your story or Jesus' story with anyone?
- Pray for people you know who are not following Jesus.
- Practice retelling your story.

2. Look up

- Read the story: The Samaritan Woman from John 4:4-42.
- Retell the passage in your own words.
- What do you like about this story?
- What does the passage teach us about God or Jesus?
- What does it teach us about the people in the story?
- Is there a command to obey or an example to follow?

Your story

Practice sharing your story with a partner.

3. Look forward

- Retell the story of the Samaritan woman in your own words.
- This week who will you share your story and God's story with?
- Pray for each other.

7 Skills

1. SHARING YOUR STORY

"Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

Luke 8:39

Sharing your story can help family and friends, and people you meet understand how they too can follow Jesus.

Write down a few points under each heading.

1. Your life before you met Jesus.

2. How you met Jesus.

3. How your life has changed.

Assignment

- Practice telling your story in three minutes with a partner.
- Who will you share you story with this week?

3. SHARING GOD'S STORY

Together with your own story, you need to be able to share the gospel story with your friends and family and the people you meet.

Paul has a summary of the gospel story in I Corinthians 15:1-8. Here's a presentation called *Share Jesus Without Fear* <www.sharejesuswithoutfear.com>

Choose a bridge:

- Family and friends of a new disciple: "I have made a decision to become a follower of Jesus. I would like to tell you about it."
- Family and friends of an existing disciple: "I have never shared with you why I became a follower of Jesus, and the difference he makes in my life. I would like to tell you about it."
- Someone you meet: "If you could know God personally, would you be interested?"

Say: "I would like to briefly share my story with you."

Say: "I would like to show you from the Bible how you can know God personally."

Let God's Word speak.

- Mark these verses beforehand in your Bible.
- Ask your friend to read each verse aloud.
- After they have read a verse ask, "What does this say to you?" Listen to the person.

John 3:16

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Romans 5:8

Acts 2:37-38

- If your friend interprets a passage incorrectly, don't argue or offer your interpretation, but ask him to read it again, and then explain your take on it a second time.

Check understanding by asking:

- Are you a sinner?
- Do you want forgiveness for your sin?
- Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross for you and rose again?
- Are you willing to surrender your life to Christ?
- Are you ready to invite Jesus into your heart and into your life and express this through baptism?

If the person says yes, they are ready to invite Jesus into their heart and life. . .

Ask them does this prayer say what you want to say in your heart to God?

Heavenly Father, I have sinned against you. I want forgiveness for all my sins. I believe Jesus died on the cross for me and rose again. Father, I give you my life to do with as you wish. I want Jesus Christ to come into my life and into my heart. I ask this in Jesus' name.

Ask, do you want to use these words or your own?

Have them pray a prayer of commitment and arrange their baptism.

When the person accepts Christ. . .

Ask, who else needs to hear about Jesus? When will you tell them?

Make a time to begin discipleship. Take the person through: (a) *Sharing Your Story*, (b) *Sharing Jesus' Story* and (c) *the Seven Commands of Christ*.

If the person is not ready, but is willing to meet and learn more about Jesus. . .

Ask, When can we meet next to learn more about Jesus? Use the *Seven Stories of Hope* (page 23).

At any time, if they are ready to put their faith in Christ and follow him, move to the *Seven Commands* (page 2-16).

4. REACHING NEW PEOPLE

Jesus was always on the move. He was often meeting new people and visiting new places.

In Luke 10:1-11 Jesus explained to his disciples how to connect with unreached people. Jesus sent his disciples to seek out those insiders whom the Spirit had prepared to receive the message. He called them persons of peace.

The person of peace is someone who is receptive to the gospel, is well connected relationally, and has a reputation—either good or bad. The person of peace becomes a doorway for the gospel to enter and spread throughout a community.

Read Luke 10:1-11 and fill in the table below.

What the worker does	What the person of peace does

Assignment

This week, find a partner and set aside some time to go out among people praying and looking for a person of peace.

5. DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Discovery Bible Study is a simple, yet powerful, way to make disciples.

1. Look back

- How are you doing?
- Is there something you are thankful for?
- What did you learn last time?
- How did you apply the learning?
- Did you share the story with anyone?

2. Look up

- Read the story.
- Retell the passage in your own words.
- What do you like about this story?
- What does the passage teach us about God or Jesus?
- What does it teach us about the people in the story?
- Is there a command to obey or an example to follow?

3. Look forward

- What will you do this week to obey what you have learned?
- Who will you share the story with this week?
- How can we pray for each other?

SEVEN STORIES OF HOPE

For anyone wanted to learn how to follow Jesus.

- The woman who wept at Jesus' feet (Luke 7:36-50).
- Who does God accept? (Luke 18:9-17).
- A hole in the roof (Luke 5:17-26).
- Two lost sons (Luke 15:11-32).
- A hard road (Matthew 16:21-26).
- Jesus' death and resurrection (Mark 15-16:8).
- An unexpected guest (John 21:19-31).

6. THREE THIRDS DISCIPLESHIP

A disciple is someone who is following Jesus and learning how to fish for people.

Here is a simple way of gathering with other disciples to learn how to follow and fish. There are three parts.

First Third: Look back

1. Care

- Share any highlights or lowlights since you last met.
- Pray for any needs in the group.

2. Worship

Find a simple, relevant way to worship God. For example:

- Read a passage of the Bible and respond to God in prayer.
- Sing songs of worship.

3. Accountability

Follow:

- How did you obey the lesson from last time?

Fish:

- Did you pray with anyone who was in need?
- Who did you share your story and/or Jesus' story?
- Did you find a person of peace?

4. Casting vision for reaching lost people and making disciples.

- Someone prepares a simple word of encouragement.
- Pray for people you know who are not following Jesus.

Second Third: Look up

5. New lesson

- Read the Bible story or passage.
- Without looking at the text, retell the passage in your own words.
- What do you like about this passage?
- What does the passage teach us about God?
- What does it teach us about people?
- Is there a command to obey or an example to follow?

Final Third: Look forward

6. Practice

- Practice or retell the new lesson you have learned.

7. Set goals and pray

- What do you need to do this week to obey what you've learned?
- Who could you share this passage with?
- Pray.

Three thirds at a glance

www.t4tonline.org

Look back	Look up	Look forward
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mutual care: How are you doing? 2. Worship: Praising God in a simple, relevant way. 3. Accountability* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow: How did you obey the lesson from last time? • Fish: Did you pray with anyone who was in need? • Did you share your story and/or Jesus' story? • Did you find a person of peace? 4. Casting vision* for reaching lost people and making disciples. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. New lesson: Enough Biblical content to obey and pass it on. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term discipleship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Commands • 7 Skills • Church formation • Life long discipleship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovery Bible Study 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Practice* the lesson until everyone is confident and competent to apply the learning. eg. Retell your story, Jesus' story, or this week's story. 7. Set goals and pray:* Goals for personal growth, sharing the gospel, and training others.

*If time is short, make it a priority to cover the sections with an asterix**

Read over the outline above, close your book, and then see how much of it you can recall from memory.

7. GATHERING DISCIPLES

I will build my church.

Jesus (Matthew 16:18)

1. Look back

- How are you doing?
- Is there something you can thank God for?
- Pray.
- Have you shared your story or Jesus' story with anyone?
- Pray for people you know who are not following Jesus.

2. Look up

- Read the story: Acts 2:36-47
- Retell the passage in your own words.
- What do you like about this story?
- What does the passage teach us about God or Jesus?
- What does it teach us about the people in the story?
- Is there a command to obey or an example to follow?

In the table on the next page, list the activities of the first church. In the second column list what you are currently doing when you gather with other disciples.

Is there anything you need to add or change?

Note: The simplest way for a group of new disciples to become a church is to live as church from the very first gathering.

What they did (Acts 2:36-47)	What we do

3. Look forward

- How can your discipleship gatherings reflect the life of the first church in Acts?
- Plan your next discipleship gathering to reflect the characteristics of the church in Acts 2. Use the Three Thirds outline as a guide.
- Pray for each other.

The big picture

WHAT JESUS STARTED

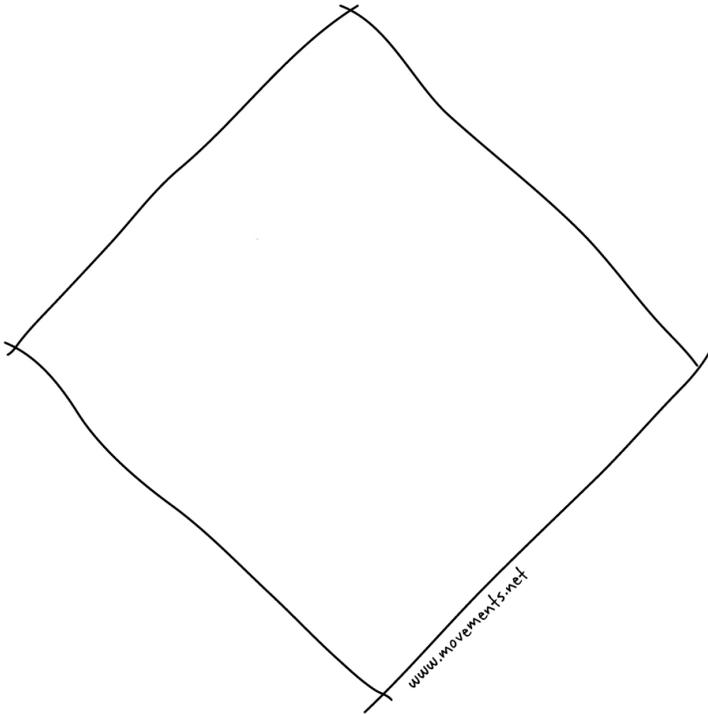
There are six elements that characterize the movement that Jesus founded and still leads today.

1. ***Jesus saw the need.*** He was moved with compassion. He looked out over Israel and saw sheep, lost without a shepherd. He prepared his disciples to take the gospel to the whole world.
2. ***Jesus connected with people.*** Jesus crossed whatever boundaries stood in the way and connected with people. No group was beyond his care. Jesus spent a lot of his time ministering to people—looking for the “sick” not the “healthy,” “sinners” not the “righteous”. He sought out people who knew they needed God’s mercy.
3. ***Jesus shared the gospel.*** Jesus proclaimed the good news of salvation in words and deeds. In him, God’s rule had become a present reality. He preached, he taught, he rebuked, and he invited everyone he met to repent and believe. He gave his life as a ransom for many.
4. ***Jesus trained disciples.*** Jesus led people to put their trust in him and to learn to obey his commands. He modeled and taught them a new way of life.
5. ***Jesus gathered communities.*** Jesus formed his disciples into communities characterized by faith in him, love for one another, and witness in word and deed.
6. ***Jesus multiplied workers.*** Jesus equipped his followers to make disciples of all nations. He sent the Holy Spirit upon them so that they would continue his ministry in his power.

Without looking at your notes, redraw and retell the six elements of the movement Jesus founded.

How will you participate in the movement that Jesus started and still leads today?

THE MOVEMENTS DIAGRAM



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multiplying
disciples
& churches
everywhere.