

FISHING FOR MEN

SCRIPTURE:

Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. (Matthew 4:18-22)

MATERIALS LIST:

- (1) Fishing pole

MAIN MESSAGE:

Fishing for fish is exciting and challenging! So is fishing for men. There is no greater need or joy in fishing for men! When you catch one, all of heaven rejoices!

SONG: "Send the Light"

LESSON:

My boy and I love to get up early. We get our old clothes on. We go to the garage and grab our tackle box and fishing pole, get in the pickup, and go fishing. We love to catch bass and catfish. The other day we spent a couple of hours at Bass Pro stocking up on fishing lures, jigs and worms. You see, when you go fishing you have to be prepared. You have to have the right bait and equipment. Your fishing pole needs to be working well and loaded with fishing line. Your tackle box needs to be equipped with hooks, weights, bait, etc. Then, you have to go to a fishing hole that actually has fish! It does no good to fish in a pond were there are only turtles, snakes, and ducks.

In the same way, fishing for men is exciting and challenging (if not more so). Followers of Jesus are most interested in catching the souls of men. We are instructed to make more disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). However, a fisher of men needs to be prepared. His heart needs to be right. He needs a zeal for lost souls. His Bible needs to be written on his heart. Fishers of men need to be around people who need a Savior. For the most part, that is not at church. Those lost souls are in your school, your work and the community. They are right there in your neighborhood.

Fishing for fish is not always easy. It's a challenge to catch a fish, especially when one is new at it. There are times when it takes all day to get a bite and there are times when no fish are biting. Fishing for men is the same way. It can be time consuming and frustrating. Working with people takes patience, care, time and love. However, all of it is worth it. When you "catch one" for Christ, it is a beautiful and rewarding event! When God takes that willing heart and forgives it and transforms it, nothing is better to witness! Go fish!

PRAYER: God, help us be fishers of men in our communities!