

CITYGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE




Week 3 -(Mark 1:14-20)
Week of January 29th, 2017



#CityGroupsTally

REMINDERS for leaders:

Here's a few reminders before you get going:

-  **VIDEO:** Each week we will have a video for you to show at your group meeting.
- **Find an Apprentice or Co-Leader.** Be ready to: Replace Yourself & Multiply. My challenge for EVERY group leader is to find someone you can teach about leading a group. Ever since Jesus, the gospel has spread and churches have grown by individuals teaching others what they know. This will also free you up as you hand away responsibility.
- **Pray, Pray, Pray!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **Mark Online Devo's:** A great resource for your group members personal growth during the week. (Found under the "Grow" tab on our website or www.citychurchtallahassee.com/mark)
2. **Serving Refugee Families:** Keep an eye out for an email with more details about how your group can help City Church serve seven families who came as refugees from N. Africa. Their greatest need right now is jobs. For more info contact: bobbiejocrouch@yahoo.com

BIG IDEA(s):

This week we'll be discussing both the 'good news' (gospel) of the Kingdom and the call to be 'fisher's of men'. The gospel of the Kingdom of God pushes us out into the world as 'fishers of men'. If we are not fishing for men are we really following Jesus? There is no other way to follow King Jesus than with all that you are and all that you have.

PRAY: Help us to learn about your Kingdom, your Gospel, and how we can fish for men this week.

READ: Mark 1:14-20

HEAD (20 minutes)



WATCH THIS WEEK'S VIDEO

1) How has your understanding of the gospel changed or grown since you've been a Christian? (vs 14-15) (maybe from advice to news, or from a to-do-list to a free gift of grace, from a get-out-of-hell card to a call to die to yourself and submit to a King etc.)

- **What are some common misconceptions people have about the gospel?** (Many Tallahassee locals assume the gospel is about good works or how to live. Sometimes people make the gospel all about themselves and what we get rather than on God and His Kingdom. Other times we fail to link repentance to believing the gospel.)
- **How have you helped clear up these misconceptions for people?**

2) In vs. 17-18 Jesus called Simon and Andrew to leave everything they knew and start following Him, "Follow Me...Immediately they left their nets and followed Him."

- **How did you react when Jesus called you out? (John 10:27-30) Did you fight against it, ignore it, or drop your net and go?**
- **What kinds of excuses do you think Simon & Andrew were tempted to make?**

HEART: (15 minutes)

1) What kind of sacrifices have you had to make to follow Jesus? (Mark 8:34 & 10:28-30) (family, friends, house, career, money, social standing, time, sleep, etc.)

- **What do you struggle to let go of in order to follow Jesus? (What are your nets?)**
- **Where do you sense resistance in your heart to following Christ? Why?**

2) What do you love about Jesus that makes you want to follow Him and forsake all else?

HANDS (15 Minutes):

1) Why do you think Jesus chose to use the metaphor of "fishing for men"? What does that mean? (vs 16-20)

- **Do all followers of Jesus have the responsibility to go 'fishing for men'? Why? (2 Cor. 5:19-20)** (Yes! Some people are more gifted at evangelism than others, but all have the responsibility to fish for men as ambassador's of Christ.)

2) What is one practical next step you can take to make sure you are fishing for men?

Pray: Take a few moments to share prayer requests and pray for one another and for the Kingdom to come in Tallahassee.

Commentary: Mark 1:14-20 (For more insight into each verse & for hard questions)

v. 14-15. *"The gospel of the kingdom" in Matthew 24:14, the gospel that will be preached to the nations—that we must take to them—is the gospel that Jesus preached. It's the good news that the time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God is at hand...*

...So, what is "the gospel of the kingdom"? The gospel of the kingdom is the good news that in Jesus God's kingly power and authority is breaking into the world like never before: he is ruling in a new way to save his people from their sins and deliver them from their enemies and reveal his glory and establish peace and righteousness in the earth. Now this could be easily misunderstood... They did not realize that the victories of the kingdom would be won by suffering and death." – John Piper

<http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-importance-of-the-kingdom-today>

v. 16. From the beginning of His public ministry, Jesus set about involving other people in His work. The Sea of Galilee geographically dominated the region where Jesus ministered. This large freshwater lake is 13 miles long and 8 miles wide. Its productive fishing provided a livelihood for many. Major trade routes passed near the sea. Flourishing towns dotted the seashore. In this setting Jesus spotted Simon and Andrew. He found these fishermen brothers busy at their work. Jesus always met people in the context of their day-to-day lives. Take note that Mark identified Simon (later called Peter) as the first of the disciples Jesus called. This lends support to the traditional view of Peter's influence on Mark and the Gospel.

v. 17. Jesus spoke to them in an authoritative tone, "Follow Me." These words came with a challenge to respond without hesitation. But the challenge included more than following Jesus for the day. It meant a change of direction for their lives. Jesus determined to change their vocation to fish for people. This explained the focus of Jesus' role. These men spent their days fishing for sea life. Now their objective became fishing for life on land. People concerned Jesus. They needed something only He could provide. He began early in His public ministry to teach (disciple) a select few about how to join Him in the task of reaching out to people.

v. 18. With no hesitation, Simon and Andrew responded immediately. The brothers left their nets at great personal sacrifice. Their vocation provided a good lifestyle. Although what Jesus made available promised no financial security, it provided something better. The men trusted Jesus and demonstrated instantaneous and complete obedience as they followed Him. Although they did not know Jesus' destination, they followed.

v. 19. Jesus went a little farther. He continued His search for disciples, apparently in a purposeful way. Another fisherman duo, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John, caught Jesus' attention. He discovered them also going about their work mending their nets. A good fisherman attended to this tedious detail at the end of the day. Even small tears in the nets resulted in loss of fish and thus income.

v. 20. Jesus called James and John to follow. They left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men. This highlights the immediacy of their response. James and John stopped what they were doing that very moment to follow. They sensed urgency in Jesus' call. The verse indicates an additional sacrifice Jesus asked of them. The two left family behind to become a part of Jesus' ministry family.