



John 14:12 NLT: “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.”

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

In this series, we’re learning what Jesus meant when He told Peter and the other disciples that they would become “fishers of men.” This statement actually applies to all followers of Jesus, so we need to learn what is involved in fulfilling this extremely important lifelong job. We want to be as effective as possible so that’s why we’re focusing on the idea of “Fishing 101.” Today we’re looking at the amazing “Art of Networking” as applied to both fishing for fish in the water and fishing for mankind in the world.

Read Luke 5:4-7:

1A) Explain the difference between “fishing” as we know it today and “fishing” that was used by Peter and some of the other disciples in the Sea of Galilee.

1B) What other difference can we see specifically from verse 7 that reveals fishing is not a solitary activity?

1C) PERSONAL: Have you ever considered yourself a “fisher of men?” What do you think this would look like in your life?

2A) What did Jesus tell the disciples in John 14:12?

2B) PERSONAL: Explain what you think He meant by this statement.

2C) PERSONAL: How do you think “fishing for men” could be included in this promise?

Read Ephesians 4:11-16:

3A) What do we learn from this passage about the way God set up the structure of the church? Verse 11

3B) What was the specific purpose that was to be fulfilled? Verse 12-15

4A) Explain the work of ministry involved in the following words and consider the idea of whether this can be done individually or how it might involve teamwork i.e. Networking.

Equipping:

Edifying:

4B) How does the description of the church - the body of Christ - look similar to a net that was used for fishing? Verse 16

Read Matthew 4:21:

4A) Look at different translations (NKJV, NIV, NLT, CJB) to see what James and John were doing when they were called by Jesus?

4B) How can all of these different words be interchanged with the idea of equipping the body of Christ?

5A) When nets were used for fishing, they got broken and dirty. Explain how members of the Church - the Body of Christ - can also get broken and dirty.

5B) PERSONAL: How do you personally need some mending, repairing, or preparing so that you can be used again to “cast your net” for Jesus?

6) PERSONAL: How can you use the following verses to begin this mending process?

1 John 1:9:

Psalm 139:23-24:

ACT: What an amazing idea to realize that Jesus has called “all” of His followers to be “fishers of men!” In order to do this job, we must make certain that our nets are ready to catch fish. They must be constantly mended, washed clean, and prepared for the job. This is a continual process that will most certainly cost us either time, energy, resources, etc. but the thrill of seeing others come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord will be worth it! Let’s pray and ask God to give us opportunities to reach out to others because we have been set apart for this very purpose.

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's explore passages that focus on what it means to be equipped.

Monday:

Joshua 4:12-13 NASB

The sons of Reuben, the sons of Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over in battle formation before the sons of Israel, just as Moses had spoken to them; about forty thousand equipped for war, crossed for battle before the Lord to the desert plains of Jericho.

Tuesday:

Isaiah 45:5 NLT

I am the Lord; there is no other God. I have equipped you for battle, though you don't even know me,

Wednesday:

Nehemiah 4:16 NIV

From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah you.

Thursday:

Ephesians 4:11-12 NIV

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

Friday:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Saturday:

Hebrews 13:20-21 NIV

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday:

1 Peter 4:1 HCSB

Therefore, since Christ suffered in the flesh, equip yourselves also with the same resolve—because the one who suffered in the flesh has finished with sin

