



FISHERS OF MEN

PRACTICING Jesus

SERMON
STUDY

09.29.2024

Leader Corner

Practicing Jesus

Fishers of men (Calling)

1 Peter 2:4-12

A third, foundational component to following Jesus is to know his mission and to then learn to love and live out that mission as our own. Each of us is not only called to love Jesus, but to live out his mission in our everyday lives. This is what separates us from the appealing, nominal, watered down, westernized Christianity that can make us lazy. It's really not about us. The radical, life transforming call to live for the sake of others and seek the lost isn't for a chosen few, it's for ALL who call on Jesus and follow Him as their Lord and Savior.

Main Idea: We are called to live our life intentionally and do as Jesus did.

Main Practice: Small, every day, intentional actions in our community that illuminate the transforming love of Jesus.

Main Teaching: 1 Peter 2:4-12

A few more housekeeping items for this week:

- *Pro Tip:* Ask one or two group members to help lead next week's group gathering.
- Remind people about the Practicing Jesus Journals and be sure to leave ample time to do the "with Practice" section.

As You Begin Your Group Time:

How did last week's assessment end up? What is one "aha" you had? When it comes to being intentionally formed, what would you like more accountability with?

Connect with Prayer

Have someone pray the following over the group:

Almighty God, in every age you have called out women and men to be your faithful servants. We believe you have now called us to join the great company who seek to follow you. Grant unto us today and always a clear vision of your call and strength to fulfill the ministry assigned to us. We pray the name of Jesus. Amen. (Adapted from A Guide to Prayer for Ministers)

with Praise

As a group watch, sing, or read the lyrics of "Take My Life, and Let it Be Consecrated" - Frances R. Havergal

Take my life and let it be / Consecrated, Lord, to thee. / Take my moments and my days; / Let them flow in ceaseless praise. / Take my hands, and let them move / At the impulse of the love. / Take my feet, and let them be / Swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing / Always, only, for my King. / Take my lips, and let them be / Filled with messages from thee. / Take my silver and my gold; / Not a might would I withhold. / Take my inflect, and use / Every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine; / It shall be no longer mine. / Take my heart, it is thine own; / It shall be thy royal throne. / Take my love; my Lord, I pour / At thy feet its treasure store. / Take myself, and I will be / Ever, only, all for thee. Amen (Frances R. Havergal)

with Principle

"Every person we meet is a God opportunity — to love and to serve. Every day is full of possible miracles. Every moment is pregnant with possibility, if only we open our eyes." (Practicing the Way, page 149)

1. Who has most reflected God's love to you? How did you see the life of Jesus at work in that person?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:4-12 recalling what impacted you from Sunday's sermon
 - a. How are we called to live as apprentices of Jesus?
3. Author John Mark Comer rightly pens a question for us to honestly evaluate, "*Are you becoming more loving? . . . Would the people who know you best say you are becoming more loving, joyful, and at peace?*" (Practicing the Way, pg. 76)
4. Focus on 1 Peter 2:9-10. When we follow Jesus, and allow him to intentionally reform us, things change in us.
 - a. How has Jesus changed you? This might be your, "I once was" statement.
 - b. How is Jesus currently transforming you? This might be you, "I am not yet, but I know he will" statement.
5. When we truly follow and let Jesus intentionally form us, our perspective on people and our purpose changes. Read 1 Peter 2:12 and also Matthew 5:13-16. How do these passages instruct us to live our everyday lives? Specifically, who is Jesus calling you to share His light and love with?
6. Spend some time in the "with Practice" section and then also writing in your Practicing Jesus Journal.

with Practice

If Jesus is calling us toward a deeper journey with him, then he is also calling us to follow him for the purpose of being sent out to fish for people (Matthew 4:19). Jeremy Chambers reminds us, "*There's no true mission without intimacy with Jesus, and there's no true intimacy with Jesus unless we are willing to follow him into the mission he has prepared for us.*"

Our practice this week is to discover and follow through with small (or big), everyday, intentional actions in our community that illuminate the transforming love of Jesus.

First, take some time to quiet your hearts by having someone pray the group prayer again.

Next, have someone else read the following, "*God the Father has us in his hands, the Holy Spirit indwells us and intercedes for us, and Jesus walks with us and calls us 'friends'. It is in this strength that we can ask Jesus to reveal to us specific ways we can illuminate his love to people this week.*"

Now, spend some time prayerfully exploring the following:

1. How is Jesus leading you into his mission? Consider some places he has called you to or may be sending you to next. Write down anything that comes to mind.
2. Who listens to you? Write down the names of people whom God has given you the grace or favor to speak into.

3. What opportunities are available for you this week? Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the names of one or two specific people you can intentionally engage in a conversation about Jesus. How will you engage them this week?

Finally, come together as a group and share the answers that came to mind. After everyone has shared, pray for courage to act on these opportunities and callings placed upon our hearts.

*(Practice adapted from the *Art of Missional Spirituality* - Jeremy and Monica Chambers)

For Further Study

Read John 15:1-17 and 1 John 4:19-21. How do these words speak to living a called life?

"Practicing the Way" reading plan:

- read pages 118-155 "Goal #3: Do as He Did."

Other Resources:

- *4 Chair Discipling* - Dann Spader
- *The Art of Missional Spirituality* - Jeremy Chambers & Monica Paredes Chambers