



Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series:

“Greater Things – From Nazareth to the Nations: Breaking Barriers and Crossing Cultures”, Week 2 – October 5, 2025

1. Jesus’ Radical Blueprint for World Change

Core Concept: Jesus didn’t follow conventional wisdom in building His movement. He strategically broke down barriers and crossed cultural lines that others refused to cross.

Discussion Questions: What does it reveal about Jesus’ character that He chose “misfits” like fishermen and tax collectors rather than the religious elite? In what ways does Jesus’ approach to building His team challenge our modern ideas about leadership and qualifications for ministry? How does knowing that the disciples were considered “not good enough” by religious standards encourage you in your own faith journey?

2. Breaking Religious Barriers

The Six Strategic Steps: Choosing the Unlikely - Fishermen, tax collectors, zealots; The Samaritan Woman - Breaking gender, ethnic, and moral barriers; The Roman Centurion - Crossing enemy lines; Gentile Territories - Going where "good Jews" wouldn't go; Sending Out the Disciples - Testing and expanding the mission; The Resurrection - Unleashing the power to fulfill the mission

Discussion Questions: Which of Jesus’ barrier-breaking actions would have been most shocking to His contemporaries? Why? Jesus praised the Roman centurion, saying, “I have not found such great faith in Israel.” What does this tell us about where God’s favor rests? Why was it significant that Jesus not only welcomed Gentiles but also went to where they were living?

3. Personal Application: The Fishermen and Tax Collectors Among Us

Reflection Questions: If you identify as a “Fisherman”: Have you ever felt like you weren’t smart enough, gifted enough, or spiritual enough to be used by God? How does Jesus’ choice of the disciples speak to your insecurities? If you identify as a “Tax Collector,” Have you ever used your faith connections for personal gain rather than God’s glory? What would genuine repentance and transformation look like in your life? For Everyone: Who are the “fishermen” in your community that the church has overlooked? What barriers exist that keep them from feeling welcomed?

4. Modern-Day Barriers We Must Break

Challenging Questions: What are the “Samaria” regions in our context—places or people groups that Christians avoid because of tradition, prejudice, or discomfort? The Jews wouldn’t even walk through Samaria. What modern equivalents exist in our church culture where we “go around” certain people or communities? Jesus ministered to a Samaritan woman who was in an immoral relationship. How do we balance truth and grace when reaching people whose lifestyles contradict biblical teaching? What denominational or theological barriers exist between churches in our community that hinder the gospel? What would it look like to break those down?

5. Crossing Cultural Lines Today

Discussion Questions: Jesus went to Gentile regions, entered Gentile homes, and touched ritually unclean people. What are the cultural lines we’re called to cross in our generation? Who are the modern-day “Roman centurions”—people in positions of power or from groups that Christians typically oppose—whom we should be reaching with the gospel? What “man-made laws” exist in our church culture that Jesus would challenge? How can we distinguish between biblical commands and human traditions?

6. The Great Commission Continues (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19)

Discussion Questions: How does the original mandate to “be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth” connect to the Great Commission? What resources did the resurrection and Pentecost provide that made the global mission possible? In what ways are we living out this 2,000-year-old commission in our daily lives?

Deep Reflection Questions: The Pharisee Test: Jesus asked, “Will we be the religious rule keepers who stand in the way of what God is doing?” How do we honestly answer this question about ourselves? Fear vs. Faith: What makes us more like the Pharisees who resisted change, and what would make us more like the disciples who embraced Jesus’ radical vision? Comfort Zone Challenge: If Jesus physically showed up at your church this Sunday, what barriers would He challenge you to break? What cultural lines would He call you to cross? The Empty Tomb Reality: The sermon ends with wondering what the Pharisees thought when they saw the empty tomb. How should the reality of the resurrection change how we approach barrier-breaking and culture-crossing today?

Prayer: Ask God for courage to break barriers and cross cultural lines like Jesus did; Request hearts that recognize we’re all “fishermen”—chosen not because we’re worthy, but because of God’s grace; Seek God’s heart for the overlooked, the outcast, and the outsider in your community; Ask for the Holy Spirit to break down denominational walls that hinder the gospel; Pray our church would be known as a place that welcomes the unlikely and reaches the unreachable.

Closing Thought: What would it look like for our church to be known as the place where barriers are broken and cultural lines are crossed for the sake of the gospel?

OCTOBER 2025

CUMBERLAND FELLOWSHIP

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Coming up:

No children's ministries on
Wed 10/15-Fall break

- Romania Mission trip
10/8-10/17
- Baptism Sunday 10/26
- Night of Worship
10/29 @6pm

Sign up on the CFLife App

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- Submit prayer requests
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- New Believer's Class
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How You Can Pray:

Pray for God's guidance and provision.

Pray for unity and generosity in our church family.

Pray that this building will reach the next generation for Christ.

Pray for wisdom for leadership and planning.

LOVE GROW GO

WORSHIP SERVICES:
CROSSVILLE CAMPUS- SUN 8, 9:30 & 11AM
SPRING CITY CAMPUS- SUN 9 & 11AM
PIKEVILLE CAMPUS- SUN 11AM
JAMESTOWN CAMPUS- SUN 10:30AM