

# go fish

## GO FISH, PART 1: WE WERE ALL FISH ONCE

When Jesus called His first followers, He had very clear intentions: “I will make you fishers of men.” He didn’t mention making them better people or even saving them from their sins—although He did those things, too. But of all the things He *could* have emphasized, Jesus announced that His primary agenda for those who follow Him is to use them to introduce others to their loving heavenly Father. It was true in Jesus’ time. And it’s still true today.

**BIG IDEA:** *It's not enough to follow. To follow is to fish.*

Every fisherman has a favorite technique. And at oneChurch.tv ours is a strategy we call *Invest and Invite*. It’s a two-step process of investing in the lives of our unchurched friends, then simply inviting them to church.

### INVEST

We invest in other people when we spend our time and energy building relationships with them. You can be strategic about these friendships wherever God has placed you—at work, in the neighborhood, or in community activities. *Friendships pave the way for influence, enabling you to impact lives for Christ.*

### INVITE

Many people think evangelism involves giving a polished, compelling spiritual presentation. But it doesn’t have to be that way. oneChurch.tv is designed to be an environment where unchurched people can feel comfortable while they investigate matters of faith. So when the time is right, invite them to church. Then make yourself available to answer the questions that will arise.

So, as you immerse yourself in the concepts in *Go Fish*, keep in mind the role that our local church is intended to play as your fishing partner.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the agendas of most people who become Christians? Why do you think they become a Christian? Is it what they can *get* from following Jesus, or what they can *give* following Jesus?
2. What was it that motivated you to become a Christian? When you think back, what was foremost in your mind when you made the decision to follow Christ?
3. With your Bible or YouVersion, read [Luke 5:1-11](#).

*One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.*

[Luke 5:1-11 \(NIV\)](#)

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4. Why do you think the disciples first wanted to follow Jesus?

5. With your Bible or YouVersion, read [Mark 1:16-17](#).

*As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."*

[Mark 1:16-17 \(NIV\)](#)

6. According to Jesus, what is His agenda for His followers?
7. What obstacles keep you from being a fisher of men?
8. Who reached you? Why did you come to church this weekend? Did someone reach out to you recently? Or at an earlier time in your life? If you can't point to someone who personally reached out to you, do you wish you could?
9. Talk about the person who was key in you becoming a Christian.
10. Thinking about the person who introduced you to Jesus what unique platform did that person occupy in your life that enabled him or her to be heard by you?
11. *Friendships pave the way for influence. You are positioned to uniquely impact someone.* Who is someone that God has perfectly positioned you to influence? Keep your eyes open this week and ask God to show you who.
12. If you've discovered who it is that God has called you to, what is it about your gifts, your past experiences, or your passion that God can use in that person's life?
13. What unique platform(s) do you occupy that God might want to use to make Himself known to the non-believers in your world?

**Friendships pave the way for influence.**

**You're positioned to impact someone.**

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## MOVING FORWARD

Often, people's initial motives for following Christ are selfish ones. Jesus promised to make His followers into fishers of men. Every follower is a prime candidate to fish for men.

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week, write a brief thank-you letter to the person or people who took the time to make sure you understood the gospel message of salvation and the invitation to enter into a relationship with God through Christ. You do not have to send the letter in order to complete this assignment.

## WEEKLY READING

This week, spend some time reading and reflecting on [Luke 5:1-11](#), [Mark 1:14-20](#), [Matthew 4:18-22](#), [Luke 5:27-32](#), [Mark 2:13-17](#), [Matthew 9:9-13](#).