

GO FISH, PART 2: WHY FISH?

Why bother to try and convince people to accept Christ? Salvation is found in no one else but Jesus. As followers of Christ, we have to fish, because the message of salvation is not intuitive; It must be shared.

In our culture, the idea of a Christian sharing his faith with a non-Christian makes a lot of people uncomfortable. Many non-Christians dread the thought of being assaulted and proselytized by zealous “born agains.” And many Christians fear being rejected, ridiculed, or humiliated for trying to push their beliefs on someone else. Both parties find it much easier just to keep to themselves on matters of faith and avoid conflict altogether. But the Bible is clear that followers are to become fishers. And fishing means being strategic with our opportunities to tell others about Jesus.

BIG IDEA: Christianity did not begin as a new belief system. It began as an event in history. You don't know history unless someone tells you about it.

The first week, we saw that Jesus had one clear goal in mind for His followers. It wasn't just to make them *more holy* or *more disciplined* or *more loving*. He promised to make them *fishers of men*. And as we saw, He has the same agenda for us today when we decide to follow Him.

Today we'll look at one of the most compelling—and overlooked—reasons why Christians should be active about sharing their faith. And in the process, we'll examine why telling others about Jesus doesn't mean you have to be pushy or overbearing. Nor does it mean you have to embarrass yourself in front of friends and co-workers. In fact, fishing can become a natural part of your personality. And once you understand the reasons why you need to fish, it can be one of the most motivating discoveries you've had since you first became a Christian.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. History is measured by landmark events that shape the course of mankind. Go around the group and name five events that changed the world during the 1900's or 2000's.
2. Have you ever seen something so exciting that you couldn't stop talking about it? Describe.
3. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read [Acts 4:5-20](#).*

On the next day, their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; and Annas the high priest *was there*, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent. When they had placed them in the center, they *began to inquire*, “By what power, or in what name, have you done this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers and elders of the people, if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this *name* this man stands here before you in good health. “He is the **STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED** by you, **THE BUILDERS**, *but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone*. “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and *began to recognize them as having been with Jesus*. And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say in reply. But when they had ordered them to leave the Council, they *began to confer with one another*, saying, “What shall we do with these men? For the fact that a noteworthy miracle has taken place through them is apparent to all who live in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. “But so that it will

not spread any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no longer to any man in this name.” And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.” [Acts 4:5-20 \(NIV\)](#)

4. What role did the priests, the captain of the guard, and the Sadducees play in the ministry of Jesus? (*Luke 20:27-40, 22:6, 52*) Why would the Sadducees oppose the disciples teaching?
5. What would you feel if you were one of the believers who saw Peter and John taken away? What would you feel if you were Peter and John?
6. What is the High Priest’s family trying to do (*verse 7*)—search for information, or intimidate the disciples? Why? (*see verses 2; 3:16*)
7. If you were one of the authorities, what would be your reaction to Peter’s bold answer? How does Peter filling with the Holy Spirit (*verses 8-12*) compare with the purpose of the filling in 2:4 (*see also Luke 21:12-13*)
8. How is the leader’s response similar to their response to the Lazarus episode (*see John 11:45-53; 12:10-11*)? Why are they reacting like this?
9. Chris said, “Christianity did not begin as a new belief system. It began as an event in history.” What’s the difference between sharing something you believe and sharing something you’ve seen and heard?
10. Does being a *fisher of men* mean convincing someone of your beliefs? Why or why not?
11. Chris said, “A belief system is always subject to argument. But historical facts are irrefutable. We think talking about Jesus gets us into a debate about belief systems. Being a fisher of men isn’t about having so much answers that you can refute the skeptics.” Have you ever been asked a tough question about your faith? How did you respond?
12. How would your life be different if you had never heard anything about Jesus?

MOVING FORWARD

Can you imagine sharing your faith in terms of the significant events that have happened to you personally as a result of knowing Christ as your personal Savior? Describe how you would convey your story to another person in the form of an account of the events that you have “seen and heard.”

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week, your homework is to consider the major events in your personal history that have occurred as a result of Jesus’ interaction in your life. What are some of the undeniable facts about you that can only be attributed to the work of Christ?

WEEKLY READING

This week, spend some time reading and reflecting on Acts 3, Acts 4:1-21, Acts 4:22-31, 1 Peter 3:13-17.

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