



GO FISH, PART 4: FISHING BUDDIES

We believe that everyone has the responsibility to invest in someone's life who does not attend church and to invite them. *Invest and Invite*. Inviting them to oneChurch. Inviting them to hear your story, because all of us has a story.

BIG IDEA: *When your story and their story meet God's story, it brings God glory.*

One of the biggest challenges of sharing Jesus with a non-believer is navigating through the complexities of Christian theology. In fact, maybe you've shied away from fishing because you weren't confident of your ability to explain all the elements of the doctrine of salvation. Even if you understand that man is born into sin and why bad things happen to good people and how God predestined certain events ... that doesn't mean you can explain it all to somebody who's never heard it.

The fact is, oftentimes, Christians make Christianity way too complicated. We just need to listen to *their story*, open up about *our story*, and invite them into *God's story*. Once we do that? You can fish without risk of muddying the waters.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Form a circle with your group. Have someone make up a short phrase and whisper it into the ear of the person beside him. Then have the second person whisper it to the third, and so on. (Continue this process until the phrase has been passed all the way around the circle. Do not say the phrase out loud. Do not repeat the phrase—say it only once per person.) When the last person has heard the phrase, have him say it out loud. Now compare it to the original version of the phrase. Did it change? Why is it so hard to transmit a simple message?
2. *“Christians have the unfortunate talent of turning the blood of Christ into the mud of Christianity.”* Why do you think Christians make Christianity so complicated?
3. How do you think the average person would describe the requirements for getting into heaven?
4. What did you think of the Penn Jillette video?
5. Think of the three stories—Their story, My Story and His Story—as three different circles. At the beginning of a relationship, the circles probably don't touch. As the relationship grows, those circles get closer together and begin to overlap. Your circle and their circle will probably overlap first. As you begin to introduce Jesus' story, His circle will begin to overlap theirs. The more these circles overlap, the more each person will understand the power and the relevance of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Evangelism is one person telling another person about Jesus. So, which of the three stories are you most comfortable engaging? Which story do you need to be more intentional about?
6. If someone asked you why a church would address the issues we address at oneChurch.tv (for example, the upcoming series on anger), how would you answer? Do you feel like you know the —why? behind the —what?
7. “How much would you have to hate someone to not proselytize?” – Penn Jillette



GOING DEEPER

1. When you were growing up, who were the people you were told not to associate with? What part of the city or country would you be warned about?
2. Where was the 'watering hole' in your home town, where everybody went to 'hang out'?
3. Since 'nice girls' did not come to draw water at noontime, why do you think Jesus risked His reputation to ask a favor of this woman?
4. In John 4:26, Jesus reveals who He is for the first time. What is significant about Jesus choosing this occasion to reveal Himself?
5. Many times people put off talking about Jesus because they think they don't know enough. How much did the Samaritan woman know about Jesus? Did she have any questions lingering? Any doubts?

Break up into three groups and have each group read one of the following passages: John 1:35-41, John 3:1-21, John 4:5-29.

6. How did Jesus differ His approach about sharing His story in these three passages in John?
7. How is His audience different (John's disciples, Nicodemus, Samaritan woman)?

MOVING FORWARD

Everyone has a story to tell. Many people can argue about the Bible or church, but they can't argue with your story, because it happened to you.

Practice telling your story to each other in your small group. Remember, your story should consist of three things:

1. *Your life before Jesus?*
2. *How you met Jesus?*
3. *How has Jesus made your life meaningful today?*

Identify three people you need to listen to their story, tell your story, and invite them into God's story. Set a date to share your story with them.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Who are you inviting to join you for the next oneChurch.tv series? When are you inviting them? How? How well can you explain the gospel to someone else? Is it clear and succinct? Or does it involve concepts that only an experienced Christian can understand?

WEEKLY READING

This week, spend some time reading and reflecting on 1 Thessalonians 2:8-10, John 1:35-51, John 3:1-21, John 4:1-44, 1 Peter 3:15.

