

GO FISH

Because Of What's On The Line

LESSON 1 – WE WERE ALL FISH ONCE

*“After John was taken, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God ¹⁵ and saying, The time has come, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe the gospel! ¹⁶ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting nets into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. ¹⁸ And straightaway they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ And when he had gone a little further, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother as they were in the boat mending their nets. ²⁰ And right away he called them. And they left their father Zebedee in the boat with his hired servants, and went their way after him.” **Mark 1:14-20 (NMB)***

*“We were born to unite with our fellow men, and to join in community with the human race.” –**Marcus Tullius Cicero***

The foundation of our call to be “fishers of men” is the perspective that we too were once in a position of needing to hear the good news about Jesus. Recalling our own need helps us to grasp the importance of answering God’s call to “go fish.”

- The **definition of a Christian**: One who professes belief in the teachings of Jesus Christ.
 - The **definition of a Disciple**: One who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another.
1. Most people become Christians for purely selfish motives.
 - A. The agenda of most people who become Christians is what is in it for me.
 2. The first disciples followed Jesus because of what He did for them.
 3. God wants to lead us to become fishers of men.
 4. Some of the obstacles keeping people from becoming fishers of men.
 - A. Afraid
 - B. Selfish
 - C. Disinterested

CHRISTIANITY

"We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow-men."—**Hermon Melville**

1. In our culture, there are so many reasons not to fish that it's important to **recall** why we need to fish.
2. Christianity is too **counterintuitive** to be recognized without help.
3. Unless **believers** tell others about Jesus, they'll never know.
4. Christianity is not simply a **belief system**, but a response to actual events in history.