

Who's Your One?

Go Fishing

Mark 1:16-18

January 6, 2019 a.m.

HDBC

New year means opportunities for new beginnings. What is true of individuals can also be true of churches. So, this morning I want to talk with you about two new things for HDBC that I am really excited about.

First: The Foyer Renovation

Did you notice the new look in the foyer? We've taken out the large welcome desk and replaced it with two small tables, one on each side. We have also added signage. At some point in the future we plan to replace the lights. We've done this not simply to change the look but **for a strategic purpose**.

Our mission statement is *love God, connect with others, serve the world*.

We exist to lead all people to do those three things. We want people to fall in love with God and come to trust Him as Lord and Savior. We want those new believers to develop relationships with other believers so that they can grow in Christ and become maturing disciples. We want these to then find places of service in and through the church. This is why we exist!

However, those three phrases not only summarize our mission statement but also our **discipleship process**. Here's what I mean.

The first step in the discipleship process is to help a person experience the love of God in a real and personal way. This step involves becoming a Christ-follower, being baptized and joining a church. Our **worship services** are designed to lead people through this first step. For most people, a Sunday morning worship service is the first thing they experience at church. So, we want to use these to help people take this first step. We celebrate when they do.

However, that is not the end goal. We want them to grow in Christ. So . . .

The second step is to help them get connected with other believers in a process that will lead to spiritual growth. This happens through studying the Bible together, spending time together, serving together and generally experiencing life together. It's always better when you have people to pray with, learn with, cry with, laugh with and grow with. **Our small group ministry** is designed to help people get connected. Small groups study the Bible together, pray for one another, serve together and generally experience life together. So, we encourage people to get connected by being actively involved in a small group. It's a new year, a time for new beginnings, a great time to get in a group.

The third step is to get involved in serving others. We were brought into the kingdom of God not simply for what we gain but for what we can give. We were saved to serve. The third step in our mission is to encourage people to get involved in ministry and service. **This is why we exist.** To lead people through those three progressive steps.

Now, back to the foyer. As we did some evaluation several months ago, we realized that we needed a clear way for people to get information on taking those steps. The foyer renovation is designed to help people take two of those critical steps. All three statements are now there. For two of them we have stations (tables) with information. After each service I will be on the loving God side at to help people take the first step. Rick will be on the connecting with others side to help people know how they can connect in a small group

We are available to all of you, but please be aware that the few minutes after each service are great times for us to speak with people about taking the next step. So, please don't tie us up with long conversations that might keep us from helping someone take the **Next Step**.

Second: New Initiative

This new initiative is based on the great commission that Jesus has given to every Christ-follower. He has called us to make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them what it means to follow Christ. We do a pretty good job of sending money, teams and prayers outside of our area. I love what we do for national

and international missions. We can do better and must continue to do so. The first weekend in February we are going to focus on our work outside of our area.

This initiative is designed to draw attention our personal responsibility to be involved in the great commission. That statement is scary to many of us. I get it. We get nervous when we think about being personally involved in sharing Christ. But, our nervousness does not negate our responsibility.

Open Bibles to Mark 1:16-18. From the beginning, Jesus made it clear what His agenda was. You can sum up that agenda with two little words, ***Go Fishing***.

In these verses we find Jesus calling his first disciples. These **first invites** were to men who had been fishing most of their lives. They knew what it meant to fish, for fish. But Jesus said he would call them to fish for people.

READ THE PASSAGE – Mark 1:16-18

There it is. The agenda of Jesus for His followers is to fish for people. Of course, he is using fishing as an analogy. This is a call to evangelism. We see it at the beginning of his ministry in this form and at the end in the Great Commission.

Let me encourage you to take a deep breath, relax, and simple be open to how God will speak to you during this series. Honestly, the call to go fishing for people was intimidating to them as well.

Four things we need to come to grips with.

1. Fishermen Fish

Jesus said he would make them into something they had never been. I'm going to change you in a particular way. When he said, ***follow me***, He could have promised to make them . . . Better husbands, More spiritual, Extremely wealthy, Filled with great faith,

But He did not. He said He would make them to be ***Fishermen***. I don't know a lot about fishing, but this much I know. Fishermen fish. They do what they do because of who they are. Jesus changed who they were before

he called them to do what they were to do. He turned them into fishermen before he called them to fish. ***We can do what He calls us to do because of what He has made us to be.*** He has enabled us to do this!

By fishing, He is referring to **the intentional process of helping other people become followers of Christ.** That's it. It is the intentional process of helping others know Jesus.

Fishermen fish. You are a fishermen. Therefore, you should fish.
Sounds scary. But don't fret. Stay with me!

2. Fishermen Learn

This was a brand new concept for them. The idea of catching people was a rather novel and radical idea. I mean what were they supposed to do with them . . . filet them and sell them for \$7 a pound?

They were not good at it at first. They botched it a lot.

When the kids were around Jesus they chased them away.

When they wanted to call down fire from heaven on a village

You may not be good at it at first. You may be nervous, intimidated, scared and uncertain. Don't worry about it. You can learn.

Those of you who are really good fishermen were not that way the first time you went fishing. But you stayed with it and learned. You experimented and practiced and eventually became good at it.

We are going to help you! This sermon series will provide a lot of helps. We are going to give you a resource in a few weeks. We are going to provide training. We are going to give you a structured process.

3. Fishermen Plan

No one just suddenly finds himself fishing. It takes some planning and intentionality. This 2019 initiative is all about planning! We are not sharing

Jesus and seeing many people become disciples because we have not planned to do so. So, we have a plan.

Here's the plan! *Who's Your One?*

Challenge every member of HDBC to do three things:

1. Pray for a lost person by name every day in 2019. Start at list.
2. Invite at least one unchurched person to church each week in 2019.
3. Have a gospel conversation with one lost person a month in 2019.

If 100 people did this for one year that would mean . . .

36,500 prayers for lost people

5,200 invitations to church

1,200 gospel conversations

We have a plan for tracking the numbers so we can celebrate. I'll share about that next week. But, feel free to get started now.

I want to share one more thing with you. Before you discount your part in this plan . . . before you decide you can't do it . . . before you say no . . . remember one thing!

4. Someone Fished for You

Aren't you glad someone shared with you. That's the plan!

You are perfectly positioned to fish because God is orchestrating your life in such a way as to use you to reach other people. Just be open! Remember . . . you are a believer because someone was willing to be a fisherman.

Now it is your turn. Our theme for the year is ***Who's Your One?*** Who is the one you will pray for today? Who is the one you will invite this week? Who is the one you will have a gospel conversation with this month? **Who's Your One?**

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