

Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 1/25/26

Summary

This sermon explored the calling of Jesus' first disciples by the Sea of Galilee, examining three key questions Pastor Mark wishes he could have asked them: How did you know to follow so quickly? Did you understand what Jesus was calling you to? Were you prepared for a lifetime of change? Pastor Mark explained that these weren't random fishermen but likely former disciples of John the Baptist who had previously encountered Jesus. He clarified that 'fishers of men' in Old Testament context often referred to judgment rather than salvation, which may explain the disciples' initial understanding. The central message emphasized that following Jesus means accepting a call to continuous repentance and transformation - not a one-time change, but a lifelong process of being made into disciples.

Intro Prayer

Father in Heaven, as we gather together in this small group, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be like Samuel, saying 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' We come not just to learn facts, but to encounter You and grow in our relationship with Jesus. May we be willing to be challenged, changed, and transformed by Your Word. Give us hearts that are ready to follow You more closely, just as those first disciples did by the Sea of Galilee. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

If you could ask any biblical character one question about their experience with Jesus, who would it be and what would you ask?

Key Verses

1. Matthew 4:19
2. Matthew 4:20
3. Matthew 4:22
4. Jeremiah 16:16
5. Isaiah 9:1-2

Questions

1. Pastor Mark wondered how the disciples knew to follow Jesus so quickly. When you first decided to follow Jesus, what drew you to Him? Was it immediate or gradual?
2. The disciples may have misunderstood what 'fishers of men' meant, thinking it referred to judgment rather than salvation. How has your understanding of following Jesus changed since you first believed?
3. Jesus called the disciples to continuous change and transformation, not just a one-time decision. What areas of your life is Jesus currently working to change or transform?

4. The disciples left their nets, boats, and even family to follow Jesus. What has following Jesus cost you, and what has it given you in return?

5. Jesus' message was 'repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.' How do you understand repentance - is it just feeling sorry for sin, or something more?

6. Pastor Mark noted that following Jesus has been 'more joyful and more sorrowful' than expected. How would you describe your journey of following Jesus?

7. The disciples thought they knew what they were signing up for, but they really didn't. Looking back, how has following Jesus been different from what you initially expected?

Life Application

This week, identify one specific area where you sense Jesus calling you to change or grow. Instead of resisting or making excuses ('that's just how I am'), ask God to help you embrace the transformation He wants to work in your life. Spend time in prayer each day asking, 'Jesus, how do you want to change me today?' and be willing to take one small step toward that change.

Key Takeaways

- Following Jesus begins with His invitation - we follow because He calls us, not because we're naturally inclined to do so.
- We often think we understand what following Jesus means, but the reality is always more challenging and more rewarding than we expect.
- Following Jesus is not a one-time decision but a lifelong commitment to continuous change and transformation.
- Repentance means more than feeling sorry for sin - it means turning around, changing directions, and living differently.
- Jesus still calls people today just as He called those first disciples, and our stories of following Him mirror theirs in many ways.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for seeing us and calling us to follow You, just as You called those first disciples by the Sea of Galilee. We confess that we don't always understand where You're leading us, and sometimes we resist the changes You want to make in our lives. Help us to trust You more deeply and to embrace the transformation You're working in us. Thank You that You never give

up on us, even when we struggle to follow faithfully. Continue Your work in us, making us more like You each day. We're grateful that following You has been worth every step of the journey. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.