

▼ **Starting Life With Jesus**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday May 5, 2024

© 2024 Life Church Ministries, Inc.

<http://www.LifeChurchBoston.org/>

▼ **Opening Material**

▼ Welcome!

- Praise the Lord!
- Welcome to another Life Church sermon!

▼ Transition

- Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.
- The QR code links to our Visitor Landing Page.
- Use it to access our notes, share your contact information, and access our giving page.
- Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!
- Email: Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG
- We are beginning Luke 5.

▼ **Feeding on the Life of Jesus**

- Are you “worded up”?
- Eat his flesh; Drink his blood - John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17
- Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?

▼ What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?

- The Gospel of Matthew in May (5/1 - 5/28)
- The Gospel of Mark in June (6/1 - 6/16)
- The Gospel of Luke in July (7/1 - 7/24)
- The Gospel of John in August (8/1 - 8/21)

▼ For April this means:

- Read Matthew 4 on May 4 (yesterday).
- Read Matthew 5 on May 5 (today).
- Read Matthew 6 on May 6 (tomorrow).
- As you read, write down any questions you have.

▼ Ask yourself the following questions:

- What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
- What would I like to better understand about this chapter?

- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?

▼ Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
- Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
- Read and listen to God's Word in community!

▼ **Thoughts From This Past Week**

- ?

▼ **Luke 4:14-21 (NIV) - The Lord's Spirit Is Upon Me**

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

- Jesus returns to Galilee in the power of the Spirit.
- Jesus teaches in their synagogues, everyone praises him, news spreads.
- ▼ Jesus attends Synagogue on the Sabbath
 - He reads the Jubilee passage from Isaiah 61 and announces that it is now fulfilled.

- The people are amazed at the gracious words (words of grace) he is speaking. They cannot reconcile his present ministry with his previous identity - Jesus from around the way.
- This is the foundation for the rest of this gospel and thus for today's passage!

▼ Overview

- Jesus calls his first disciples.
- How the Gospel Works.
- Making Disciples.

▼ Video

- [Bible Project: Gospel of the Kingdom](#) (00:05:48)

▼ Luke 5:1-11 (NIV) - Jesus Calls His First Disciples

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, **"Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."**

Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, **"Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."** So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

▼ Parallel / Related Passages

• Matthew 4:18-22 (NIV) - Jesus Calls His First Disciples

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. **"Come, follow me,"** Jesus said, **"and I will send you out to fish for people."** At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

- **Mark 1:16-20 (NIV) - Jesus Calls His First Disciples**

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. **“Come, follow me,”** Jesus said, **“and I will send you out to fish for people.”** At once they left their nets and followed him.

When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

- **John 1:40-42 - Jesus Calls His First Disciples**

Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, **“We have found the Messiah”** (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, **“You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas”** (which, when translated, is Peter).

- ▼ **Jesus Calls His First Disciples**

- ▼ **Narrative**

- Jesus is standing by the lake teaching God’s Word to the people.
- He makes more room by teaching from one of the boats in the water.
- After he finishes he tells the fisherman to push out for a catch.
- They caught nothing all night; they obey and bring in a huge catch.
- Simon, recognizing his own sinfulness, asks Jesus to leave him alone.
- Jesus tells him not to fear and that he will catch people from now on.

- ▼ **Comparison of gospel accounts:**

- Luke provides more background.
- Matthew joined the disciples after Andrew, Peter, John, and James.
- Mark is probably recording content based on Peter’s preaching.
- John makes clear that Peter and Andrew already had some history with Jesus.
- Matthew and Mark both record that Jesus said: **“Follow me.”**

- ▼ **Minimal theological tests:**

- Notice that there are no theological formulas for the disciples to recite.

- ▼ **The disciples are never asked:**

- To acknowledge that they are sinners.
- To acknowledge that the penalty for sin is death.
- To acknowledge that Jesus paid the penalty for them.
- To confess that Jesus is Lord and to believe that God raised him from the dead.
- They simply accept Jesus’ offer to follow him.

- ▼ **This is a foundation for understanding how one becomes Christian.**

- Forget formulas like the 4 Spiritual Laws, ABC, or Romans Roadmap.
- ▼ Engage the narrative by observing:
 - how people become disciples,
 - what life with Jesus looks like after becoming a follower,
 - how life with Jesus continues after his resurrection.
- ▼ Process:
 - Jesus calls them.
 - They leave everything to follow him. They are captivated by Jesus.
 - Keep track of what their subsequent life is like with Jesus.
- ▼ How the Gospel Works
 - ▼ Exposure to the Gospel happens:
 - The Kingdom of God is arriving. Come follow me.
 - ▼ Post-resurrection gospel to Jews
 - Acts 2:36-41 - Peter Proclaims the Gospel

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

- ▼ Post-resurrection gospel to Gentiles
 - Acts 17:29-34 - Paul Proclaims the Gospel

“Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. **In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.**”

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” At that, Paul left the Council. Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

- ▼ The Gospel generates a response:

- **Romans 1:13-17 - The Gospel Has Power**

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles.

I am obligated both to Greeks and Non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed —a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

- Give the Gospel a chance.
- Wait for the response.
- ▶ Make disciples as a lifestyle.

▼ **Making Disciples**

- **Matthew 28:16-20**

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**

▼ **Key Questions**

- “What is a disciple and how will I know when I’ve made one?”
- “How do I make a disciple?”
- “How long does it take to make a disciple?”
- A disciple is a convert who is learning by following Jesus with a goal of becoming like Jesus.
- We make disciples by walking converts through the Gospel of Matthew.
- It takes roughly 3 years to make a disciple who no longer needs us.

▼ **Disciple-making ingredients**

- Prayer & spiritual warfare
- Safe, healthy, and effective life groups
- A personal testimony
- An accessible pool of unchurched people
- A practical way to start spiritual conversations
- Activities welcoming to unchurched people
- Leading someone to Christ

- Helping a believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit
- Discipling another believer

▼ Get Trained

▼ How to proceed - Are you . . .

- Unsure that you are actually a Christian?
- A new Christian or someone who has decided to “start over” from scratch?
- Connected to a new Christian or someone who has decided to “start over” from scratch?
- A Christian who wants to begin making disciples?
- A Christian who is experienced in making disciples who make disciples?
- A [Life Group Leader](#)?
- Now that you’ve read this far your next step is to visit, call, text, or email someone! Don’t settle for passively “lurking” on this web site. If you can’t figure out which of the above categories applies to you, ask one of the pastors for help.

▼ Prayer & spiritual warfare

- Your life group leaders will help you develop in this area.
- Your life group must develop a prayer focus!
- For more help in this area check out our [Training Page](#).

▼ Safe, healthy, and effective life groups

- We want to train you to promote safe, healthy, and effective life groups and we want you to train others to do the same.
- Talk to your life group leaders about how you can help them build up your life group.
- For more help in this area check out our [Training Page](#).

▼ A personal testimony

- Jesus has called us to be his witnesses. In order to be a witness, you need to be prepared to let people know what you’ve experienced with Jesus.
- Write up your personal testimony and practice sharing it with your life group.
- For more help in this area check out our [Training Page](#).

▼ An accessible pool of unchurched people

- If you’re going to make disciples, you’re going to have to spend time with people who don’t yet follow Jesus. Most people will be most effective in winning people with whom they’ve developed a relationship. Relationships develop best when you have frequent opportunities to interact.
- Work with your life group as a team to identify the unchurched people that you can reach.

- For more help in this area check out our [Training Page](#).
- ▼ A practical way of starting spiritual conversations
 - We need to be able to overcome our reluctance to start spiritual conversations with people.
 - For more help in this area check out our [Training Page](#).
- ▼ Activities welcoming to unchurched people
 - We need activities that can promote deepening relationships between followers of Jesus and unchurched people. Our Sunday services are designed primarily to build up followers of Jesus – not impart Gospel truth to non-followers. We need to be able to conduct activities that are more suitable for this type of relationship building. Ideally these activities should be frequent enough to support the development of friendships. This means that they should be ” turn-key”. The planning and preparation should be simple enough that the events can be launched weekly or at least monthly.
 - ▼ These activities all provide some combination of relationship building, community generation, and exploration of Christianity, but they will often have a primary emphasis:
 - ▼ Building Relationships
 - Games Night
 - Change the World Night
 - ▼ Generating Community
 - Life Group Meetings
 - ▼ Exploring the Christianity
 - Alpha Classes
 - You will work with your life group as a team to plan and carry out outreach activities.
 - For more help in this area check out our [Training Page](#).
- ▼ Leading someone to Christ
 - Our goal, as we engage in evangelism, is for the person we’ve befriended to actually become a follower of Jesus. Once you’ve established that the person is ready to make that decision you need to guide them into that commitment.
 - For more help in this area check out our [Training Page](#).
- ▼ Helping a believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit
 - Jesus promised his disciples that they would receive power to be his witnesses after the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1:8). We want every believer to experience this power so that they can effectively represent the Lord to the world around them.
 - For more help in this area check out our [Training Page](#).
- ▼ Discipling another believer

- ▼ The most developed component of our discipleship training is:
 - [Focus On the Message](#)
 - For more help in this area check out our [Training Page](#).

▼ **Discussions, Q&A**

- **Why does Jesus use Simon's boat?**
- **Why does Jesus tell Simon to put out into deep water for a catch? Why does Simon obey?**
- **Why does Simon tell Jesus to go away? Have you ever wanted to tell Jesus to go away? Why?**
- **What would it mean for us to "catch people?"**



Starting Life With Jesus

Sunday May 5, 2024



Welcome!



Visitor Page

Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church. The QR code links to our Visitor Landing Page. Use it to access our notes, share your contact information, and access our giving page.

Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!

Email: Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG

We are beginning Luke 5.



Feeding on the Life of Jesus (1 of 4)



Are you “worded up”?

Eat his flesh; Drink his blood – John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17

Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?

What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?

- The Gospel of Matthew in May (5/1 - 5/28)
- The Gospel of Mark in June (6/1 – 6/16)
- The Gospel of Luke in July (7/1 – 7/24)
- The Gospel of John in August (8/1 – 8/21)



Feeding on the Life of Jesus (2 of 4)



For May this means:

- Read Matthew 4 on May 4 (yesterday).
- Read Matthew 5 on May 5 (today).
- Read Matthew 6 on May 6 (tomorrow).
- etc.



Feeding on the Life of Jesus (3 of 4)



As you read, write down any questions you have.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
- What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?



Feeding on the Life of Jesus (4 of 4)



Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
- Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
- Read and listen to God's Word in community!



Thoughts From This Past Week

- ?



Luke 4:14-21 NIV



Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”



The Lord's Spirit Is Upon Me

- Jesus returns to Galilee in the power of the Spirit.
- Jesus teaches in their synagogues, everyone praises him, news spreads.
- Jesus attends Synagogue on the Sabbath
 - He reads the Jubilee passage from Isaiah 61 and announces that it is now fulfilled.
 - The people are amazed at the gracious words (words of grace) he is speaking. They cannot reconcile his present ministry with his previous identity - Jesus from around the way.
- This is the foundation for the rest of this gospel and thus for today's passage!



The Gospel of the Kingdom





Luke 5:1-11 NIV (1 of 2)



One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, **“Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”**

Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”



Luke 5:1-11 NIV (2 of 2)



When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, **"Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."** So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.



Matthew 4:18-22 (NIV)



As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. **“Come, follow me,”** Jesus said, **“and I will send you out to fish for people.”** At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.



Mark 1:16-20 (NIV)



As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. **“Come, follow me,”** Jesus said, **“and I will send you out to fish for people.”** At once they left their nets and followed him.

When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.



John 1:40-42 (NIV)



Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephias" (which, when translated, is Peter).



Jesus Calls His First Disciples (1 of 4)



Narrative

- Jesus is standing by the lake teaching God's Word to the people.
- He makes more room by teaching from one of the boats in the water.
- After he finishes, he tells the fisherman to push out for a catch.
- They caught nothing all night; they obey and bring in a huge catch.
- Simon, recognizing his own sinfulness, asks Jesus to leave him alone.
- Jesus tells him not to fear and that he will catch people from now on.



Jesus Calls His First Disciples (2 of 4)



Comparison of gospel accounts:

- Luke provides more background.
- Matthew joined the disciples after Andrew, Peter, John, and James.
- Mark is probably recording content based on Peter's preaching.
- John makes clear that Peter and Andrew already had some history with Jesus.
- Matthew and Mark both record that Jesus said: "Follow me."



Jesus Calls His First Disciples (3 of 4)

Minimal theological tests:

- Notice that there are no theological formulas for the disciples to recite.
- The disciples are never asked:
 - To acknowledge that they are sinners.
 - To acknowledge that the penalty for sin is death.
 - To acknowledge that Jesus paid the penalty for them.
 - To confess that Jesus is Lord and to believe that God raised him from the dead.
- They simply accept Jesus' offer to follow him.



Jesus Calls His First Disciples (4 of 4)



This is a foundation for understanding how one becomes Christian.

- Forget formulas like the 4 Spiritual Laws, ABC, or Romans Roadmap.
- Engage the narrative by observing:
 - how people become disciples,
 - what life with Jesus looks like after becoming a follower,
 - how life with Jesus continues after the resurrection.
- Process:
 - Jesus calls them.
 - They leave everything to follow him. They are captivated by Jesus.
 - Keep track of what their subsequent life is like with Jesus.



How The Gospel Works

- Exposure to the Gospel
 - “The Kingdom of God is arriving.” “Come follow me.”
 - Post-resurrection gospel to Jews



Acts 2:36-41 (NIV)

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off —for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.



How The Gospel Works

- Exposure to the Gospel
 - “The Kingdom of God is arriving.” “Come follow me.”
 - Post-resurrection gospel to Jews
 - Post-resurrection gospel to Gentiles



Acts 17:29-34 (NIV)

“Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. **In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.**”

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” At that, Paul left the Council. Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.



How The Gospel Works

- Exposure to the Gospel
 - “The Kingdom of God is arriving.” “Come follow me.”
 - Post-resurrection gospel to Jews
 - Post-resurrection gospel to Gentiles
- The Gospel generates a response.



Romans 1:13-17 (NIV)



I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles.

I am obligated both to Greeks and Non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed — a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”



How The Gospel Works



- Exposure to the Gospel
 - “The Kingdom of God is arriving.” “Come follow me.”
 - Post-resurrection gospel to Jews
 - Post-resurrection gospel to Gentiles
- The Gospel generates a response.
- Give the Gospel a chance.
- Wait for the response.
- Make disciples as a lifestyle.



Matthew 28:16-20



Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**



Making Disciples (1 of 2)

Making Disciples

- Key Questions
 - “What is a disciple and how will I know when I’ve made one?”
 - “How do I make a disciple?”
 - “How long does it take to make a disciple?”
- A disciple is a convert who is learning by following Jesus with a goal of becoming like Jesus.
- We make disciples by walking converts through the Gospel of Matthew.
- It takes roughly 3 years to make a disciple who no longer needs us.



Making Disciples (2 of 2)

Disciple-making ingredients

- Prayer & spiritual warfare
- Safe, healthy, and effective life groups
- A personal testimony
- An accessible pool of unchurched people
- A practical way to start spiritual conversations
- Activities welcoming to unchurched people
- Leading someone to Christ
- Helping a believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit
- Discipling another believer



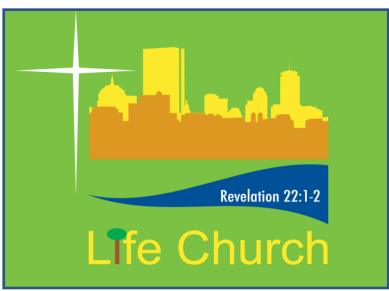
Get Trained (1 of 7)



How to proceed - Are you . . .

- Unsure that you are actually a Christian?
- A new Christian or someone who has decided to “start over” from scratch?
- Connected to a new Christian or someone who has decided to “start over” from scratch?
- A Christian who wants to begin making disciples?
- A Christian who is experienced in making disciples who make disciples?
- A [Life Group Leader](#)?

Now that you’ve read this far your next step is to visit, call, text, or email someone! Don’t settle for passively “lurking” on this web site. If you can’t figure out which of the above categories applies to you, ask one of the pastors for help.



Get Trained (2 of 7)

Prayer & spiritual warfare

- Your life group leaders will help you develop in this area.
- Your life group must develop a prayer focus!
- For more help in this area check out our [Training Page](#).

Safe, healthy, and effective life groups

- We want to train you to promote safe, healthy, and effective life groups and we want you to train others to do the same.
- Talk to your life group leaders about how you can help them build up your life group.
- For more help in this area check out our [Training Page](#).



Get Trained (3 of 7)

A personal testimony

- Jesus has called us to be his witnesses. In order to be a witness, you need to be prepared to let people know what you've experienced with Jesus.
- Write up your personal testimony and practice sharing it with your life group.
- For more help in this area check out our [Training Page](#).

An accessible pool of unchurched people

- If you're going to make disciples, you're going to have to spend time with people who don't yet follow Jesus. Most people will be most effective in winning people with whom they've developed a relationship. Relationships develop best when you have frequent opportunities to interact.
- Work with your life group as a team to identify the unchurched people that you can reach.
- For more help in this area check out our [Training Page](#).



Get Trained (4 of 7)

A practical way of starting spiritual conversations

- We need to be able to overcome our reluctance to start spiritual conversations with people.
- For more help in this area check out our [Training Page](#).



Get Trained (5 of 7)

Activities welcoming to unchurched people

- We need activities that can promote deepening relationships between followers of Jesus and unchurched people. Our Sunday services are designed primarily to build up followers of Jesus – not impart Gospel truth to non-followers. We need to be able to conduct activities that are more suitable for this type of relationship building. Ideally these activities should be frequent enough to support the development of friendships. This means that they should be "turn-key". The planning and preparation should be simple enough that the events can be launched weekly or at least monthly.



Get Trained (6 of 7)



Activities welcoming to unchurched people (continued)

- These activities all provide some combination of relationship building, community generation, and exploration of Christianity, but they will often have a primary emphasis:
- Building Relationships
 - Games Night
 - Change the World Night
- Generating Community
 - Life Group Meetings
- Exploring the Christianity
 - Alpha Classes
- You will work with your life group as a team to plan and carry out outreach activities.
- For more help in this area check out our [Training Page](#).



Get Trained (7 of 7)



Leading someone to Christ

- Our goal, as we engage in evangelism, is for the person we've befriended to actually become a follower of Jesus. Once you've established that the person is ready to make that decision you need to guide them into that commitment.
- For more help in this area check out our [Training Page](#).

Helping a believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit

- Jesus promised his disciples that they would receive power to be his witnesses after the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1:8). We want every believer to experience this power so that they can effectively represent the Lord to the world around them.

Discipling another believer

- The most developed component of our discipleship training is: [Focus On the Message](#)
- For more help in this area check out our [Training Page](#).



Discussion

- Why does Jesus use Simon's boat?
- Why does Jesus tell Simon to put out into deep water for a catch?
Why does Simon obey?
- Why does Simon tell Jesus to go away? Have you ever wanted to tell Jesus to go away? Why?
- What would it mean for us to "catch people?"



Announcements



Visitor Page

- Sunday Service (Communion) May 5, 2024
- Men's Bible Study Wed (5/8) 7pm - Zoom
- Alpha Thu (5/9) 6pm Awaken City Church
- Sunday Service May 12, 2024
- Men's Bible Study Wed (5/15) 7pm - Zoom
- Alpha Thu (5/16) 6pm Awaken City Church
- Sunday Service May 19, 2024



Discussion

- Why does Jesus use Simon's boat?
- Why does Jesus tell Simon to put out into deep water for a catch?
Why does Simon obey?
- Why does Simon tell Jesus to go away? Have you ever wanted to tell Jesus to go away? Why?
- What would it mean for us to "catch people?"