

5. Andrew, Peter, James, and John dropped their nets to follow Jesus. What are some of the things we have to drop to follow Jesus?

6. How does the analogy of fishing for people also apply to our lives?

7. We are called by Jesus to witness to and serve people who are far from God. Spend time praying for people on your BLESS list (see "Begin with Prayer" below). Now think and pray about what God is leading you to do with or for someone on your BLESS list this week. Is he calling you to get together and listen with care, share a meal or coffee, serve in a concrete way, or share your story? Bring one prayer request for someone on your list to your group.

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Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



**God's Rescue Operation**

"Understanding What Jesus Calls Us To"

Matthew 4:18-25

**What Jesus Calls Us To**

1. Jesus's call is a call to \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 4:18-19a,21-22)

Jesus gives people time to respond to his call, but it's ultimately a call that requires a \_\_\_\_\_.

This is \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus more than Rabbi Jesus at this point in the story. Jesus doesn't even ask. He calls them to follow. (1 Kings 19:19-20)

"For many of us..., that's how our Christian experience began. [Like the fishermen,] there we were, minding our own business, living a good life, or maybe a hard life, when Jesus came along and interrupted us. Maybe we heard about him in church, or a friend told us about him, or we picked up the Bible for ourselves and read about him. And we were so struck by him—by his life and his teaching—that we said, 'I have to find out more about him.' And eventually we said, 'I have to follow him.'" (Bryan Wilkerson)

Implications of Following Jesus

• L\_\_\_\_\_

Following Jesus will result in \_\_\_\_\_ against the current of any culture you live in.

Following Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ their work and family life in radical ways.

To follow Jesus means to "leave" our self-determined \_\_\_\_\_ and identities and the things that offer us security.

- B \_\_\_\_\_

Discipleship is about \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Jesus's call is a call to \_\_\_\_\_ and serve. (Matthew 4:19,23-25)

"Christ's call is [for] more than our own salvation; it is a call for the salvation of others." (Douglas Sean O'Donnell)

"[Jesus is saying,] 'I'll make you someone who knows how to draw people out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light.'" (Tim Keller)

How will you become a person who draws others toward Jesus's kingdom of light?

- Through \_\_\_\_\_ transformation - You will be a person whose character is being transformed by Jesus.
- Through \_\_\_\_\_ on the Holy Spirit - You will be a person who depends on the Holy Spirit.
- Through being \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus's message - You will be a person who spreads the word (Romans 10:14-15; Colossians 4:5-6)

3. Jesus's call is a call to Jesus \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 4:24)

### Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What is a time in your life when you had to leave something and found it difficult?
3. Read Matthew 4:18-25. What is Matthew emphasizing about the nature of Jesus's call?
4. How does Luke 14:25-34 demonstrate that Jesus gives people time to respond to his call, but that it's ultimately a call that requires a response?