

Small Group Discussion Guide

Matthew 4:18-22

“Getting Directions”

Based on Sunday's
Sermon 6/14/2026

Background

“The sons of Zebedee may not have left their father in the lurch, but they did leave a presumably lucrative family business, from which they were no doubt receiving a handsome share of the profits. Jesus offered no salary, no benefits, no pension plan. Following a thirtysomething rabbi who had never been to the equivalent of rabbinical college certainly wasn't a résumé builder. Those four men—Andrew, Peter, James, and John—weren't hired as ministry interns; they were called into a life of service to Christ. And they responded instantly.”¹

“When Jesus called those first disciples, He gathered together the first fish-catching crew of His church. They were the first of the original band of evangelists He called to fulfill the Great Commission. They were Jesus' first partners in ministry. He had the power and the right to accomplish the work of proclaiming the gospel by Himself. But that was not His plan. He could have done it alone, but He never intended to do it alone. From the beginning of His ministry, His plan was to use disciples to win disciples. He would command His disciples to do other things, but His first call to them was, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”²

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

1. As a kid, who was someone you naturally followed, imitated, or looked up to? Why?

Observation

2. Who did Jesus talk to and what was the scenario?
3. What was the response of the fishermen?

¹ Charles R. Swindoll, *Matthew 1–15*, vol. 1A, Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2020), 77–79.

² John F. MacArthur Jr., *Matthew*, vol. 1, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1985–1989), 115.

4. What was the play on words that Jesus made?

Interpretation

5. Why is it significant that Jesus calls fishermen—not scholars, priests, or religious leaders?
6. How can being a disciple not be a good thing? (Think about the ME in verse 19)
7. What does “I will make you” teach about the source of spiritual transformation?
8. Read Romans 8:29. How does this passage give us insight into God’s role in discipleship?

Application

9. You may not be a fisherman, yet your home, work, circle of friends, etc...provides discipleship opportunities if as believers we keep our eyes open. What opportunities do you see?
10. What is one practical step you can take this week to be more intentional about influencing others toward Christ?

Prayer List: