



Title: VESSELS— Are You Called to Follow Jesus?

Date: January 15, 2023

WORSHIP:
Option 1: In person gathering — assign someone to lead in worship or play two praise & worship songs from You Tube.
Option 2: Online gathering , at a public place, at the park, school campus or café — Ask three to four people to share testimonies of answered prayers or ask the question: What are you thankful to God about this past week?

Main Text: Matthew 4:18-20
“And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him. ” Matthew 4:18-20 NKJV

Leader’s Notes:
 1. Start and end on time.
 2. Facilitate discussions.
 3. Give all attendees opportunities to share. Encourage participation.
 4. Remind everyone that whatever shared in the group will be kept within the group.
 5. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit if there’s someone who you can lead to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior and be born again.

WELCOME: Greet everyone. Introduce yourself. Acknowledge guests/first-time visitors. Ask the group to take turns introducing themselves.

Ice Breaker:
 Do you consider yourself a good person? If you said “yes,” why? If you say otherwise, please share why? (No pressure...)
 Do you know why God made you a good person? For what reason or purpose did God want us to be good here on earth?

Intro:
 God wants you and me to be good as His people. For what purpose does God want us to be good? This is to be personally clear to each one of us so we can live a fulfilled life, and most especially, as we desire to make a difference in our world, God’s way. You and me should have a clear idea of what it is to be His good followers.

WORD: 2000 years ago, Jesus called people to follow Him wholeheartedly and intimately as His disciples! Today, Jesus is calling you and me to follow Him closely and enjoy an intimate relationship with Him as well. But being a follower of Jesus means that we do it the same way... wholeheartedly. It means surrendering every area and aspect of our lives to Him and making Jesus our personal Lord and Saviour. In doing so, people will see the difference in the way we live. It all starts when we make that decision to follow Him and follow Him till the end, like His followers. How do we do this?

1. Jesus calls us to follow Him. - Jesus calls people to follow Him not just be saved from sin.
 “Follow ”- literally means “to come behind someone.” During the time of Jesus, Rabbis have followers to learn from their teachings. To “follow the Lord” means to give up our rights over our lives and let Him take over. Jesus told the two fishermen, brothers Peter and Andrew that He is calling them to follow Him to the very end. They were called to not just listen to His teachings and afterwards go back to their own way of life.

Application:
 Upon Jesus’ call, Peter and Andrew left “immediately” their nets and followed Him. They had a revelation that Jesus was different from the other Rabbis no wonder their response was immediate and radical!
Q: Without the physical presence of Christ on earth, how do people respond to Jesus’ call to follow Him?

2. He promised to guide and empower us to “fish” for people –
 Jesus called two fishermen and gave them a vision of what their life and future looks like. The earthly good intended by God for them is to help others get connected to the God who loves them and has an amazingly good purpose for their lives. He called them to help others be connected to God through Him. *“You are the light of the world, like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”* Matthew 5:14-16 NLT

Jesus is calling us to reflect His light (love and goodness) to those around us. Jesus is the only mediator between God and man, but Jesus needs workers to work with Him in His harvest field.
Application:
“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”” Matthew 9:36-38 NIV
 God is calling us to reveal Him to others and be the catalyst for change in the lives of other people.

Q: How can God use you and me to reveal His love to people around you (to your family, at work, in your community, etc.)?

Conclusion:
 An intimate relationship with Jesus is crucial for us to have the ability to know the earthly good He has intended for us to do as His people and the capacity to do it. Individually, as we relate with people in our families, neighborhood, workplace, and strangers we meet along the way, we live by example the love and servanthood of Christ.
 As His church, we are called to reflect his light to those around us through our good deeds or works. As we come together and work together with our gifts, talents, personalities, and characters complementing each other, we can reflect to the world the fullness of Christ. We are after all His Body, He is our head.
WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer
 Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well.