

Follow Me — and I Will Make You Fishers

(A Journey Through the Gospel of Luke)

“Formed Before Sent”

Luke 4

March 15, 2026

Pastor David Bardowell

Big Idea: Before Jesus sends us into mission, He forms us in hidden faithfulness.

Disciple-Making Focus: Faithfulness precedes fruitfulness.

I. Formed in _____, Anchored in _____ (vv. 1-13)

“Then Jesus left the Jordan, full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days to be tempted by the devil. (Luke 4:1–2, CSB)

Key Truth:

God forms His servants in testing by anchoring them in His Word.

I II. Formed for _____, Not Popularity (vv. 14-30)

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me...” (Luke 4:18)

When they heard this, everyone in the synagogue was enraged... intending to hurl him over the cliff.” (Luke 4:28, 29)

Key Truth:

If your identity is rooted in people’s approval, rejection will derail you.

III. Formed to Minister With _____ (vv. 31-44)

*“They were astonished at his teaching because his message had authority.”
(Luke 4:32, CSB)*

Key Truth:

Spiritual authority flows from a life formed in obedience and aligned with God’s mission.

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Small Group Questions — Week 4

Series: Follow Me — and I Will Make You Fishers

Week 4 Title: Formed Before Sent

Text: Luke 4

Start Here — Reflective Question

Where in your life do you feel most “tested” right now?
How do you usually respond in seasons like that?
(Allow a few moments for people to share briefly.)

Read the Passage

Have someone read one of the following sections aloud before discussion:

Luke 4:1–13

Luke 4:14–21

Luke 4:31–37

Discussion Questions

1. In Luke 4:1–13, Jesus responds to every temptation with Scripture. Why do you think being anchored in God’s Word was so important in that moment of testing?
Where do people often turn instead when life feels difficult or uncertain?

2. The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness before His public ministry began.
Why do you think God often forms people in hidden or difficult seasons before using them more publicly?
Can you think of a time when a hard season helped shape your faith?

3. In Nazareth (Luke 4:14–30), the people initially admired Jesus but quickly rejected Him when His message challenged them.
Why do you think truth sometimes moves people from admiration to offense?
How should believers respond when following Jesus leads to misunderstanding or rejection?

4. Jesus refused to let people’s reactions determine His message or mission.

Why is it tempting to shape our faith around approval or popularity?
What does it look like to live with **purpose rather than popularity** in everyday life?

5. Luke says the people were astonished because Jesus’ words carried **authority** (Luke 4:32).

What do you think gives someone spiritual authority in their life and influence?

How is that different from simply having knowledge or strong opinions?

6. Throughout Luke 4, Jesus shows authority through teaching, healing, and confronting evil.

What does this chapter teach us about the kind of ministry Jesus calls His followers into?

Disciple-Making Connection

The sermon emphasized that **faithfulness precedes fruitfulness**.

Where might God be forming you right now before entrusting you with greater influence?

Who in your life could benefit from seeing a steady, faithful example of following Jesus?

Close Together

Pray that God would deepen your formation in Christ.

Ask Him to anchor your life in His Word, clarify your purpose, and shape you into someone whose life carries the authority and compassion of Jesus. 🙏