

Fishermen Want to Catch Fish

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**Illustration:** Any boat that you can easily bring in and out of a room is acceptable; we use an inflatable two-seater with paddles. If you have access to a life-jacket or a sailor hat or even a captain's hat, these make additionally good props. A fishing rod is an added plus.



To begin the message send a couple of students out to pick up the boat which is in another room/area and have them carry it in.

Later on in the message you will pick one student to wear the sailor hat; sit in the boat/dingy and hold the fishing rod. You will be interacting with this sailor/student during part of the message.

### Introduction:

Open in prayer and read the following verse:

*Mark 1:17 "And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men."*

First, let's see what Jesus did NOT say:

- Follow me and I will give you opportunity.
- Follow me and fish for men, if you want to.

Jesus did say:

- Follow me and I WILL teach you how to be a soul winner.

Winning souls is what Jesus' ministry is all about. It is **the** reason He left Heaven and took on a body of flesh.

When Jesus made a statement, he meant what He said. It was not just idle talk.

At the end of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus tells the disciples to "Go" into all the world and spread the Gospel, giving them special instructions to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit comes to them.

In the book of Acts Jesus is getting ready to ascend back into Heaven. He explains to His disciples once more, very clearly, that they have a job to do and how to go about it. Then we see them in action:

*Acts 2: 38.41 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost...Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.."*

While we are learning to use the Bible, this is a good place to remind you that the New Testament was written for the most part in Greek. Using a *Strong's' Concordance* [ this book takes every single word of the KJV and translates the meanings from Greek to English so you can see what the original text was saying], the words that are translated "for the remission of sins" in the original Greek reads "because of the remission of sins" or more like "as a result of the remission of sins". This further clarifies what the writer of Acts is really saying.

**Heart of the Message:** Let me show you what it takes to fish for men or be soul winners.

*Pick a student; outfit the student in the sailor hat or a fishing hat; hand the fishing rod over to the student; and escort them to sit in the boat.*

*At each of the three points below, spend some time in conversation about the points, bringing in personal experiences to tie in to the points. Write each lead word for the points as you cover the point on a white board or on a cardboard flash card.*

**1. PREPARE: If you don't get equipped right, you will never be effective.**

The disciples spent time with Jesus. Do you?

Let's look at fishing to see how this applies. People fishing in tournaments read a lot about how to fish. They are willing to spend their money to become prepared. They spend a lot of time at a lake, river, or ocean where the fish are. They want to be around other fishermen and talk about the fish that were caught. They prepare to go fishing.

**2. PRAY: You have to focus and talk to the expert, Jesus.**

In Acts 1: 13-14 the Bible says that the disciples gathered together and did nothing but pray for 10 days straight.

Most in this room don't pray 10 minutes per day; some don't pray 10 minutes per week, some do not pray at all for stretches of 10 days or longer. They had learned from Jesus, that to be effective, it takes plenty of prayer. In fact, Jesus had said of one situation that:

*Mark 9:29 And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting..*

**3. PLEAD: If you don't bait the hook, you won't catch fish.**

Repenting of your sin and giving your heart to Jesus is THE most important thing anyone will ever do.

I have seen some of you plead; in fact, even beg for simple things like a piece of candy or wanting to be called on at game time for a prize. Will you plead to see another person saved/born again? Bait the hook; catch the fish.

*Ask the sailor in the boat how the fishing is coming along. What no fish? Why?*

The sailor is not at the water [ where the fish are]; The sailor has not sought the Lord's leading through prayer; The sailor has no bait on the hook.

*You can let your sailor go back to the other students now.*

Now let's quickly apply the three points: Prepare; Pray; Plead.

**PREPARE:** Know how to tell people about salvation; that it is Jesus only

**PRAY:** Make a list of people you know [ not just your friends]

Pray for them daily.

**PLEAD:** Have a plan on how to get them to church with you.

Invite them to spend Saturday night with you if your parents approve, so you can bring them with you on Sunday

Live a Christ-like life so that others would see you and desire what you have.

If you are not saved, then you know that you have a problem already. You are not a fisherman; you are still a fish that needs to be caught. If you are concerned about where you will spend eternity and would like to ask Jesus to save you then we can talk with you about that today