



What Do Fishing Stories Teach Us about Discipleship?

- Fishing isn't just about inviting people into a relationship with Jesus Christ, but empowering disciples to invest in one another.
- We must cultivate patience, perseverance, courage, timely action, and the ability to stay out of sight.
- Call isn't limited to pastors. Everyone is called. In fact, God's call for you is the moment when God's free and saving grace intersects or merges with your life.

John 21:1–14 (NLT)

Verses 1–3

Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples. Simon Peter said, "I'm going fishing." "We'll come, too," they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night.

- Scholars believe the unnamed disciples were Philip and Andrew since they, along with Peter and Nathanael, were named in John 1.
- The seven were waiting to learn what they needed to do next.
- Each of these disciples drifted or felt lost at one point or another on the path of discipleship.

Sometimes we find new direction in our spiritual journey when we return to _____.

Verses 4–6

At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't see who he was. He called out, "Fellows, have you caught any fish?" "No," they replied. Then he said, "Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you'll get some!" So they did, and they couldn't haul in the net because there were so many fish in it.

- The Church of the Primacy of Peter in Tabgha is the traditional site where Jesus met his disciples for breakfast that morning.
- There are many similarities between this story and Luke 5:1–10. A big difference is that Jesus is standing on the shore and the disciples don't recognize him.

Being receptive to Jesus' _____ is the source of direction for his disciples, then and now.

Verses 7–9

Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore. The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards from shore. When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread.

_____ help us to see that God is working in our lives.

What are some ways you can keep track of how God is working in your life to help you in times of uncertainty?

- It is the one who sees with love who first recognizes the risen Christ in our midst. This causes others to see Jesus.

Do you see this world with God’s love for everyone in it? Who are the beloved disciples in your life who can reveal Jesus to you?

Verses 10–14

“Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,” Jesus said. So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn’t torn. “Now come and have some breakfast!” Jesus said. None of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish. This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead.

- Some believe 153 represents the exact number of each type of fish living in the Sea of Galilee. The fish symbolize the gospel’s impact worldwide, and the net represents the church where there is enough room for people of every nation.

We regain direction and follow Jesus best, even when we feel adrift in uncertainty, by with Jesus in our daily routines.

Do you see the sacred in your everyday routine? What would it look like for you to slow down and change your perspective?

Bottom Line

The love of Jesus Christ will guide us to the next step we need to take on our spiritual journey. We simply need to stay alert and receive God’s guidance as it comes to us.

“It is a positive motivator to be discontent with our moral character, our spiritual life, our pursuit of holiness, our desire for justice, and our ability to love. These are areas in which we should continue to grow and improve, for we are meant to become more than we are today.”
Adam Hamilton, *Enough*