



Growth Group Discussion Guide

"Growing Upward, Inward, Outward, and Forward"

For the Week of February 19, 2017

Matthew 4:12-25

Jesus Begins to Preach

12 When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. 13 Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— 14 to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

15 "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— 16 the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

The Calling of the First Disciples

18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." 20 At once they left their nets and followed him.

21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.



WELCOME – Getting to Know Each Other Better

- How did other people invest in you in such a way that led you to submit your life to Christ?
- Which of the pictures of Jesus do you most resonate with: a light, a fisherman, or a physician? Why?

Sermon Outline

- The first part of the sermon look at John 1-4 and Jesus' first year of ministry before returning to Capernaum.
- Verses 12-17 reveal Jesus as a Light in the Darkness
- Verses 18-22 tell how Jesus called His disciples and began working to help them become fishers of men.
- Verses 23-25 tell us about Jesus healing ministry and show His love, compassion, and empathy for people.

WORD - Applying Scripture to Our Lives

1. What did you take away from this week's sermon or Scripture passage?
2. How did you feel about Pastor Casey's challenge that if you are not sharing your faith with others you are living in obedience to Him?
3. Can you think of any Scripture passages that say evangelism (telling others the Good News of Jesus) is a command for all followers of Christ?

Jesus Heals the Sick

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. 25 Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

4. What message did Jesus preach according to v. 17? How would you share that message in your own words?
5. Why do you think Andrew, Peter, James and John were willing to leave everything to follow Jesus?
6. What did you give up, or leave behind, to follow Jesus? Why were you willing to do that?
7. How can your story of submitting to Jesus help you share the gospel with someone else?
8. Why do you think Jesus healed people physically and didn't just focus on them spiritually? How might this impact the way we love people that are disconnected from Christ?
9. Who are the FOUR you are FOR ???



Be sure to check out - www.forthecreek.com - and submit the four people you are investing in for the kingdom so we can join you in prayer.