



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors Dennis & Diane Gordon

JESUS OUR HEALER #2 FISHERS OF MEN



Luke 5:1-11 & 27-29; Luke 6:12-16

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND ME
FROM DAYS OF OLD UNTIL TODAY
HEALING AND SAVING IS GOD'S WAY,
JESUS CAME TO SET ME FREE
HE FORGIVES MY SIN AND HE HEALS ALL OF ME!

Group Scripture Reading for Today:

Matthew 4:19 "And he saith unto them, *Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*" ²⁰ *And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.*"

Psalms 103:2-3 "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and *forget not all his benefits:*
³ *Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.*"

1. INTRODUCTION: Jesus called his first five disciples, after his baptism in the Jordan River, and now they are fishing on the Sea of Galilee, where seven more disciples follow Jesus, making 12. Jesus brought salvation and healing everywhere he went. Healing is so integral a part of salvation, that in the same day of his resurrection at sunset, Jesus included healing in his commission to go and heal, bringing salvation to all who are lost in our world today.

ORDER OF SERVICE:

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| 1. Light Candles & Pray | 4. Dismiss Kids to Noah's Ark with 'Animals Go Marching Song' | |
| 2. Children's Songs & Story | 5. Adult Fellowship Break | 7. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer |
| 3. Intro Gospel Craft/Coloring | 6. Worship Song Set | 8. Blessing Songs & Benediction |

2. HEALING & WHOLENESS ARE PART OF YOUR SALVATION, BECAUSE JESUS LOVES ALL OF YOU!



Jesus was with the first five disciples who followed him down by the Sea of Galilee, that is also called the Lake of Gennesaret. Everywhere Jesus preached salvation, he healed those who came, and crowds of people followed him. Do not forget when you pray with a convert for salvation, to walk as Jesus walked, and pray for healing.

*Psalm 103:2-3 “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:
³ Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.”*

Do you remember how angry the Pharisees and people of Jesus’ home town were when Jesus said that there were many widows in Israel during the famine, but God had sent his prophet only to one? And there were many lepers in Israel, **but God sent his prophet only to one who was healed.** God knows our hearts. When you pray for another, be sensitive to hear what the Lord whispers from his Spirit. Jesus did not go to everyone who was sick, but he healed all those who came to him, and he said that their faith had made them whole - **a heart must be ready.** When Jesus ministered salvation, healing came first, then he said their sins were forgiven. **Healing and wholeness were, are, and always will be a part of salvation of the whole person, because Jesus loves ALL of you!** Jesus had gone about healing, and now their hearts were prepared for salvation.



Luke 5:1-3 “And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, ² And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. ³ And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon’s, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.”

3. WHEN YOU LISTEN TO JESUS YOU WILL CATCH MORE THAN YOUR NET CAN HOLD.

[Luke 5:4-6](#) “When he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. ⁵ And Simon answering said unto him, Master we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. ⁶ And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.”

Now what does it mean that they ‘inclosed’ a great number of fish? The fishermen did not fish with a fishing pole, but they fished by throwing out a net with heavy weights around the edge that would pull the net down around the fish, then when they pulled the net up, the weights came together to trap the fish inside like a giant net bag.

First-Century Galilean Fishing Boat

Sailboats of this period had only a mast and “yard,” and were used near shore under favorable wind conditions.

The fishing technique of this period required that fishermen frequently dive into the water. Consequently, fishermen often worked without clothing (see John 21:7).

This type of small sailboat was very common in first century Galilee; it was likely the same kind that Jesus’ first disciples used.

The cast net opens as it is thrown and hits the water mostly flat.

The weights on the perimeter of the net pull the edges down around the fish.

As the fisherman retrieves the net, the weights come together and trap the fish inside.

Ancient fishing vessels were small and not very stable or maneuverable.

Size comparison (approximate):

School bus Length: 37 ft.	Galilean boat Length: 26 ft.	Delivery truck Length: 27 ft.
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Labels in the illustration: Mast, Yard, Net, Prow, Weights, Oars, Stern, Rudder.

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They had fished all night long and caught nothing, but when they listened to the Lord, they caught more fish than their nets could hold!

4. BEFORE MINISTRY, GOD WILL TEST YOUR HEART

How many have been lost because God's servants went out fishing and fishing, but did not take the time to wait upon the Lord Jesus, to hear his voice tell them where they would find that one who was waiting to hear?

Luke 5:7-9 “And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. ⁸ When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. ⁹ For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:”



Where have we read of someone who felt that way when he sensed the glory of the presence of the Lord? It was Isaiah:

Isaiah 6:5 “Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”

The closer we draw in to the Lord, the more clearly we see our own sin in the presence of his holiness. **It is a beautiful thing to confess our sin, and draw in closer still.** These fishermen saw this amazing miracle in the middle of the day when the fish are hiding in the rocks and cannot be caught, and they saw that God can do anything! **Jesus was showing them what he was about to do in their lives.**



Luke 5:10-11 “And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. ¹¹ And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.”

These disciples could not begin to know the excitement of what lay ahead for them! More than these fish, they would bring hundreds of thousands to salvation; and they left everything behind them, to follow Jesus!

5 WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FORSAKE ALL TO FOLLOW JESUS? IT IS NOT ABOUT YOUR STUFF.

Luke 14:28-29; 33 “For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? ²⁹lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him. ... ³³ So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.



It is not all your ‘stuff’ that is important to God, but your heart. As a committed believer, you will be led out into a harsh world of unbelievers who hate Christians who believe God’s word, and into an unbelieving world who say they are Christians but who are not, because they do not believe God’s word. Satan has brought our world into such confusion and deception that only those who are willing to forsake all for Jesus, to not care what anyone thinks but God; only those who are willing to stand for the truth of Jesus Christ and his word, are going to be able to stand for the true God and go through the gate that is narrow. Sisters and brothers, the gate is not wide encompassing everybody who ever said the name of Jesus sometime in their life like the popular entertaining mega churches would have you to believe, no, the gate is narrow and **FEW** there be that find it.

Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

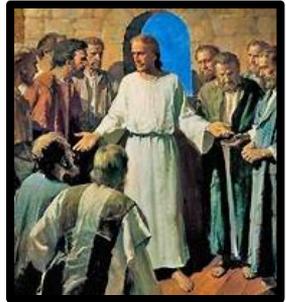
These men who became disciples of Jesus, understood what Jesus meant, so they dropped their nets, left their families, left behind regular meals and comforts, left everything behind to follow Jesus. We have to have that kind of loyalty to God to be able to stand up to all the wiles the devil will throw at you, so we will not be deceived to follow after a false popular way, which is another gospel, and be lost. And so it began! Jesus trained his disciples well, to go about through the cities with the net of the Gospel, catching the lost to save them for Heaven! Jesus commissioned us to save and heal people, and most often, salvation began with healing.

6. IN THE VERY NIGHT THAT JESUS ROSE, WHILE IT WAS YET DARK WHERE THE DISCIPLES HAD MET IN THE PLACE HE SAID, JESUS GAVE HIS COMMISSION!

John 20:19-20 “Then the same day at evening ^{Strong’s 3798 sunset}, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. ²⁰ And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.”

Was healing a sign gift to prove that Jesus was the Messiah but is not for us today? Quite the opposite, for when he sent out his 12 disciples into the world, he gave them power when he breathed his Spirit upon them, to go and preach the gospel to every creature, every living being. Part of the gospel that cannot be severed from the gospel, is that the sign gifts given to the 12 disciples, all these signs given in the great commission, shall follow all them that believe because of their preaching! The power is in the word of God that is believed! Do you believe? Then healing is for you, and healing is one of the signs that shall follow you because you believe!

Mark 16:14-18 “Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. ¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. ¹⁷ And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name ... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”



You and I are to believe and be baptized in water, then go in the name of Jesus believing that signs shall follow because we believe in the word of God of which every word is alive, because he is alive! And we shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover just as Jesus said, because the signs of healing follow you and me!

7. THE GOSPEL OF JESUS IS SALVATION AND HEALING!

Have you ever seen a death sentence disease simply accepted, believing it is God's will, so everybody prays for the person to have peace in his last hours? **Does that sound like the gospel that Jesus preached to you?** Yet that is the gospel many accept. They will pray for healing from headaches and measles, but when it comes to the hard things, those must be God's will! But that is not the gospel Jesus preached, and that is not the gospel that Jesus commanded his disciples to preach. So, are we to go about just naming and claiming what we want and say that God has to do it so just take it? No! That is not the gospel either. The gospel says to preach God's word over yourself and others, and signs of healing will follow you when you believe. Place your hands on sick people, especially yourself when you are sick, believing, and they, and you shall recover; the sign will follow. But many like the man with the death sentence of leprosy, wonder if it is God's will to make them well and whole again:

Luke 5:12-14 *"And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, **Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.**"¹³ And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, **I will: be thou clean.** And **immediately the leprosy departed from him.**"¹⁴ And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and **offer for thy cleansing,** according as Moses commanded, **for a testimony unto them.***



Jesus offered his own blood once for all, so what is the offering that we are to offer for our cleansing that is more to God than all sacrifices?

Mark 12:32-33 *"And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for **there is one God; and there is none other but he:**"³³ and **to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.**"*

Loving God with every fiber of your being with all your heart, and loving others with all your heart is the greatest testimony you can give!

8. FISHERS OF MEN BELIEVE FOR THOSE WHO ARE WEAK.

Luke 5:17 “And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.”

Remember that God inhabits the praises of his people; always be praising Jesus with his testimony in your mouth so that the power of his word and his Spirit is present to save and heal those who are sick.



Luke 5:18-20 “And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. ¹⁹ And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus. ²⁰ And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.”

When Jesus saw the faith of those who believed, signs followed!

Luke 5:21-26 “And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?” ²² But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? ²³ Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk? ²⁴ But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house. ²⁵ And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. ²⁶ And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.”

Jesus has commissioned all who believe, to pray with those who want to repent, to assure them that Jesus has forgiven them, and to believe for them that they shall be healed; lay hands on them and pray for their healing! And Jesus will see your faith, as you praise him for his wonderful works!



9. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND ME.

1. When we go fishing for men we need to fish the way Jesus did, listening to them, loving them with compassion, and pray for them.
2. Healing and wholeness were always, and are always a part of salvation for the whole person, because Jesus loves all of you!
3. When you listen to Jesus, you will catch more than your net can hold.
4. The closer you get to Jesus, the more sin you will see in your heart, and it is a beautiful thing to confess our sin, and draw closer still.
5. Forsaking all to follow Jesus is not about our stuff, but about our hearts being completely surrendered and holding nothing back from him.
6. Narrow is the way that leads to life, and few there be that find it.
7. Jesus commissions all who believe, to go in the name of Jesus believing that signs shall follow because we believe in the word of God of which every word is alive, because he is alive!
8. The Gospel is salvation and healing of the whole person.
9. Fishers of men believe for those who are weak.
10. Jesus sees your faith as you praise him for his wonderful works!



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the gospel you gave us when you commissioned your disciples, that is the same gospel that you gave to all who believe. We pray that you strengthen our faith in the power of your blood shed for us to completely cleanse us and make us whole, and in the power of your word and your Spirit that empowers us to serve you with signs of healing and wholeness following. I surrender my whole heart to you today, Lord, fill me fresh and new with your Holy Spirit, that I may bring honor and glory to you everywhere I go, **in Jesus' name, Amen.**

10. CHILDREN'S STORY: FINDING THE RIGHT BAIT

Marty and Grampa were fishing at a spot that Grampa had found when he was a little boy. Marty loved fishing with his Grampa because they got to talk about all kinds of things and it was always a special day. Today Grampa was teaching Marty how each fish likes a different kind of bait, and if you use the right kind of bait, they will jump right on the hook!



That made Marty think, *“Grampa, I have been trying to be a fisher of men for Jesus, but I haven’t brought anyone to Jesus yet, do you think maybe I am using the wrong kind of bait?”* Grampa asked Marty what kind of bait he was putting out there, and Marty said, *“Well, I keep telling them that Jesus is coming and if they don’t believe they will burn up in hell!”* Grampa chuckled a bit and said, *“Weeeeelll Marty, I could see as how that may not be the right kind of bait for the fish you’re trying to catch, more like a sharp scary hook coming at them!”* Marty said sadly, *“Yeah, I kinda thought there might be something wrong with my bait.”* Grampa chuckled again saying, *“Jesus gave us a message that really works to bring in his people to be saved:”* [*John 3:16*](#) *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth on him, shall not perish but have everlasting life.”* *“Folks need to hear how much Jesus loves them, and wants them to be with them forever, Marty. The love of Jesus is what makes us feel sorry for our sins, and want to be forgiven, and want to be like him.”* Marty thought about that and said, *“Grampa, that’s a lot better bait than what I’ve been using for sure!”*



And do you know what happened? When Marty went back to school, he saw a boy on the playground who was sad because the other kids would not play with him, and he sat beside him, and told him how much Jesus loves him! And do you know what happened next? That boy took that bait and believed, and he prayed to ask Jesus to forgive him his sins, and Jesus came into his heart! And Marty had a new friend who loved Jesus just like he did! And Marty brought him next time he went fishing with Grampa.

11. GOSPEL CRAFT: FISHERS OF KIDS!



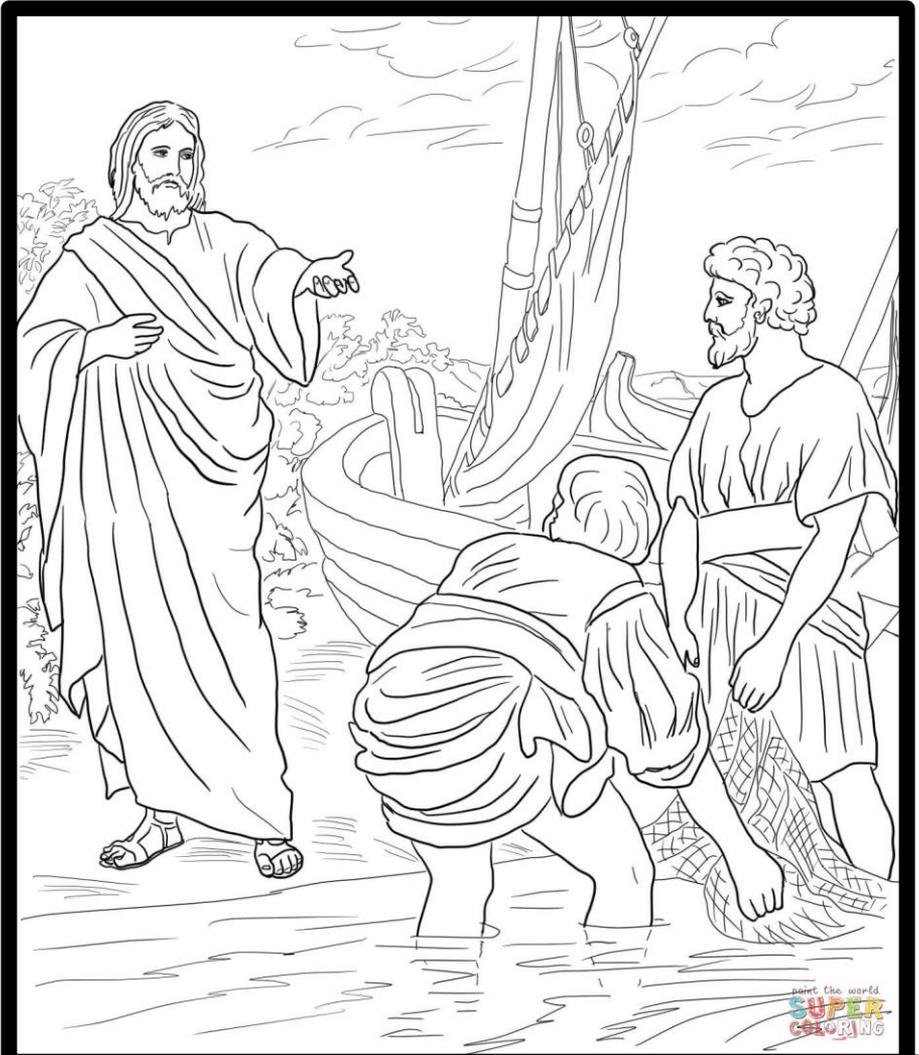
DIRECTIONS:

1. Enlarge and make color copy to 8 ½ x 11" white card stock.
2. Reinforce fish with clear packing tape over front and back.
3. Cut out around each fish outline.
4. Cut craft magnet strips in 1" sections and stick to back side, up top on the mouth.
5. Tie 3 foot long string to a branch to make a fishing pole.
6. Use hot-melt glue to secure a small craft magnet disk to the end of the string.
7. Make one set for each child so they can train to be fishers of men!

Option: Attach open paper clip to string for a hook and punch a hole in top of fish.



12. TIMELINE COLORING PAGE: Fishers of Men



JESUS WANTS ME TO BRING MANY TO BE SAVED AND HEALED

Matthew 4:19 “And he saith unto them, ***Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*** ²⁰ And they ***straightway left their nets, and followed him.***”

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³ ***Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.***”