



Sermon Discussion Guide

January 17, 2021

Matthew 4:12-25

Consider reading the sermon text (Matthew 4:12-25) together and briefly summarize the main points of the sermon (see outline below). Recapping the sermon text and sermon outline can be a helpful way to start the group, even if everyone did hear the sermon. If someone did not hear the sermon, at least they have now heard the text, or part of the text...

Creating Ripples

Matthew 4:12-25

- Dawn: Jesus begins His Ministry
 - Jesus withdraws to Galilee (Matt 4:12)
 - He continues where John the Baptist had left off
 - His ministry could gain some momentum
 - Galilee was less dangerous than Jerusalem
 - He begins in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali (Matt 4:13-16)
 - His location was a fulfillment of prophecy
 - He was a Light in the darkness
 - Jesus begins preaching about the Kingdom (Matt 4:17)
 - He uses same words as John the Baptist (Matt 3:1-2)
 - This signified connection between the John and Christ
 - Jesus stuck to the basics
- Drawn: Jesus Calls the First Disciples
 - Jesus walks by the Sea of Galilee (Matt 4:18)
 - The inhabitants are less cultivated or refined
 - Jesus chooses the least likely (1 Cor 1:27-29)
 - Jesus uses language they can understand (Matt 4:19)
 - The disciples are faithful, available and teachable (Matt 4:20)
 - Jesus spells out the cost of discipleship (Matt 16:24)
- Phenomenon: Jesus Ministers to Great Crowds
 - Jesus knows how to draw a crowd (Matt 4:23)
 - His fame grows (Matt 4:24-25)
 - We can be intimidated by the size of Jesus' ministry
 - Ministry is accomplished one conversation at a time
 - Ministry is accomplished one life at a time
 - God takes your offering and multiplies it
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Sermon Discussion questions

After briefly reviewing the message outline and text, use these questions to further examine the sermon and to discuss how these truths apply to daily life, so we can “be doers of the word, and not hearers only” (Jas. 1:22). Based on your knowledge of the people in your home group, **select the questions that will best help you frame the group’s discussion** of this sermon and sermon text. Don’t feel like you need to discuss every question... And feel free to craft some of your own questions.

1. “Prime the pump” question—Our text today is a “fishing story.” Just for fun, tell your best fishing story...
2. Read Matt. 4:16—this verse talks about spiritual darkness. How does Jesus provide light in the darkness in 2021? How does he give hope?
3. Look at Matt. 4:18-22. Jesus chooses common fishermen to be his disciples. Why do you think he chooses the “least likely,” and how does that encourage you?
4. Read 1 Cor. 1:27-31. What are you tempted to boast or feel proud about? How do these verses challenge you?
5. The disciples are F.A.T—faithful, available, teachable.
 1. What does it look like to be a “faithful” follower of Jesus?
 2. What does it look like to be an “available” follower of Jesus?
 3. What does it look like to be a “teachable” follower of Jesus?
6. Look at Matt. 4:19—what is the purpose for which Jesus calls these disciples? (What does “fishers of men” actually mean?)
7. Jesus has called you to follow him. What is SIMILAR about your call to what we see here in Matt. 4? What is DIFFERENT?
8. Ministry is accomplished one conversation at a time, one life at a time.
 1. Have you had a conversation recently where you pointed someone to Jesus?
 2. Is there someone you will see this week whom you need to point to Jesus?
9. Are you connected to the Body of Christ in a way that you can be challenged?
10. Are you speaking into someone else’s life?