

Becoming More Like Christ - Luke 5:1-11 **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

Notes from the Sermon

Today we celebrate! Genesis Church held its first public worship service 15 years ago this weekend. It was Easter Sunday, 2006, and we met in the EHS small theater. The first service had 90 in attendance, but a large group of those people visited from our sending church, Ballwin Baptist. The next week we had under 50 and half of those were kids. It has been a fantastic journey these 15 years, and I believe we have stayed true to our purpose. *Genesis Church exists to help people find a new beginning in Christ and become more like Him.* Last week we shared how the first clause in the statement compels us to make sure Genesis is a safe place for anyone, no matter what story, religious background, culture, or struggle to explore faith and meet Jesus. This week we will talk about our desire to help people in their journey of becoming more like Jesus, or to make disciples.

Jesus' final words to His followers after His resurrection and before His ascension was a command to go make disciples of all nations. This commission is central to our mission as a church. Yet, if this is our goal, we better know what we are supposed to make. If I am making cookies, I need to start with the end product in mind. I need to know what type of cookie to make. Will I make sugar cookies, chocolate chip, snickerdoodles? Let's say we want to make chocolate chip, we also need to find a recipe that gives us cookies that will be the type of cookie we want. Do we want a hard crunchy cookie (no way) or a soft gooey one (absolutely). Here's the point, we don't start with the plan, we start with the product, the outcome, and then form the plan. So often the discipleship plan in churches are a series of classes and programs. It's as if the more busy they make people the more they are making disciples. Yet, sometimes there is a misunderstanding of the end product and as a result there is an essential ingredient missing.

When Jesus' initial followers heard the Great Commission in Matthew 28, they did not have to wonder what He meant by these words. They knew exactly what Jesus was communicating because they were His first disciples. They would think back to the story that shaped our text this morning and remember that day fishing on the Sea of Galilee, the miraculous catch of fish at Jesus' command, and falling at His feet knowing they were unworthy to be in His presence. They also would remember the call to follow, for "From now on you will be catching men." They understood the metaphor, then saw it in action for the next 3½ years as they left everything to follow Jesus. They saw him preach the Kingdom of God to large crowds, perform miracles for the hurting, and intentionally reach the marginalized and poor. Jesus did not put them in a bunch of classes, he led them on a mission. What they learned is this, if you ain't fishing, you really aren't following. This idea has been core to our understanding of making disciples from the beginning. To make people more like Jesus means to teach them to follow Jesus while we get them involved in the mission of Christ. In other words, it is our goal to help every follower of Jesus to discover what it means to be a missionary to their neighborhood and culture and to join God in His work around the world.

In fact, here's a simple definition of a disciple for us, "A disciple is a follower of Jesus who is ever growing in their application of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission." In other words, a disciple is a person who increasingly loves God with their whole being, increasingly loves their neighbor, and is involved in the task of making disciples on their block and of all nations. If this is the core meaning of discipleship (we believe it is), then there is no room for a church structure that makes it comfortable to sit in a service, attend a few classes, and do nothing else. Nope. We want you to join the mission. We are going to be a church that takes the task of making disciples here in

Eureka and to all nations seriously. Because we love Eureka, we will serve our city and ask you to join us while we do it. We want to be involved in loving the poor, reaching out to the marginalized, and caring about justice. We want to be involved in church planting locally and around the world. And we want to make the Gospel of Jesus known in our city. In other words, we don't want to be a church full of people who spend all day watching the Fishing Channel on YouTube but never actually go fishing. Because if you ain't fishing, your probably are not following.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Ezekiel 23	Ezekiel 24	Ezekiel 25	Ezekiel 26	Ezekiel 27	Ezekiel 28	Ezekiel 29

Reading from this past week: Luke 5:1-11

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Genesis 1:26-28, 3:8-13

Family Worship

Song - *God so Loved*

<https://youtu.be/PK9pljv s-A>

Gospel Project

Story: Paul's First Journey

Story Point: Paul and Barnabus told Jews and Gentiles about Jesus.

Big Picture Question: What is our mission as Christians?

Answer: Our mission is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: Acts 13-14

New City Catechism

Question #16: What is sin?

Answer: Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, not being or doing what he requires in his law.

Verse: 1 John 3:4

Scripture

Luke 5:1-11

- What is awesome about this story?
- According to Jesus, what will it mean to follow Him? How does the metaphor about fishing help us understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?
- What are some ways Genesis is involved in God's mission and how can we be involved in this?
- What has been your favorite mission experience with Genesis (or if you are new here in your Christian life)?

Prayer

*Praise God for our first 15 years as a church and pray that we would live on mission for the next 15.

*Pray for our special Member's Meeting scheduled for next Sunday and for God's will concerning the possible acquisition of property for our church.