

In John 16:7 Jesus says it's a benefit that He goes so the Holy Spirit can come and fill us.

What does Luke tell us we receive when the Holy Spirit comes? (Luke 24:49) What does Acts 10:38 tell us that Jesus did after God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and power?

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit and His power, that power enables us to do the good work Jesus calls us to. The list of good works we can do is limitless. Some things will be specific to your gifts and calling. Other things you can do together with your group.

List out some of the ways your group might do the good work of Jesus together. Include both the practical ways and the prayers you can pray together for encouragement, healing, and intercession. Now schedule a time to do that work together and end with the prayer needs you've identified.

WRAP-UP

The More and Better life is cyclical. As we are loved by Jesus, we are drawn to see who Jesus is and who He has created us to be. As we discover how Jesus uniquely made us and we follow His leading, we are shaped to be more like Him and our true selves. And the more we follow Jesus and receive the power of the Holy Spirit, the more we are empowered to do good things, starting with sharing the Good News and including all the specific opportunities that Jesus reveals to us.

MEMORY VERSE.

Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received! - Matthew 10:8 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN) Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life.

Challenge – Not sure what Jesus is calling you to? Observe what your skills and opportunities are. Orient your focus on Jesus and His work. Decide on a plan and direction to take. And finally, take action.

“Drop Your Nets and Follow- pt2”

More & Better- #3

INTRODUCTION

In our current sermon series, we are reviewing the basics of living fully alive in Christ; being loved by Jesus, shaped by Jesus, and equipped to do what Jesus did. We see this summarized in chapter one of the Gospel of Mark when Jesus called His first disciples to follow Him. When the disciples dropped their nets, they let go of the hope they had placed in other things and exchanged it for the love of Jesus. As they followed Jesus they were shaped by His example and His teaching day by day. And ultimately after Jesus' resurrection, they were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, enabling them to do everything that Jesus called them to do.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you don't know how to do now but would like to learn how to do?

Key Passage

A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.
– John 10:10 Msg

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Surrender Your Skills

Mark 1:16-18 NLT - 16 One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. 17 Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" 18 And they left their nets at once and followed him.

When Jesus called His first disciples, they were doing what they knew best – they were fishing. It was a common skill. Jesus didn't tell them He would change them into carpenters so they could build great places of worship, nor did He say they would learn to be Rabbis so they could teach the people about God. Jesus was going to make them better fishermen, albeit a different type of fishermen. But first they had to surrender the skills they already had to His service.

Eugene Peterson wrote, "Following Jesus doesn't get us where we want to go. It gets us where Jesus wants to go." Where do you think Andrew and Peter had hoped their fishing skills would take them before meeting Jesus? What was the new trajectory Jesus had planned for these fishermen?

Now consider the skills you possess and how you may have used them apart from Jesus. Are you a good speaker, an analyst, a craftsman, a nurturer, an organizer??? How has he used those skills for His kingdom work so far and can you imagine Jesus using the skills you possess for His Kingdom work in the future?

2. Start with What You Know

Mark 16:15 NLT - 15 And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."

Luke 4:18-19 NLT - 18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, 19 and that the time of the LORD's favor has come."

You may be asking yourself, "What exactly has God called me to do?" There are so many great ministries and missions that we could be part of that it is overwhelming to try to figure out what God has planned for us. We might not know the specifics yet, but all of us know the basics of Jesus' call to His disciples.

What does Mark tell us we are called to do? What did Jesus say about the specifics of the Good News He is proclaiming? Let's see if we can find situations in our own lives where we can share that Good News.

- *Jesus is proclaiming release of captives. What are some things you see people captive to? How can you share the Good News that Jesus can release them from their bondage?*
- *Jesus will make blind eyes see. This could be by healing someone's eyesight. We can always pray for healing even if another outcome seems inevitable. But what other kind of blindness can Jesus heal? How can you be instrumental in opening blind eyes?*
- *Jesus sets free those who are oppressed. Who are the oppressed in our culture? How might Jesus use us to set them free from oppression?*

As we live our lives, we should give evidence that the kingdom of heaven is breaking into earth. We are image-bearers of God and the Holy Spirit lives in us. Part of God's calling is for us to shine His light of love in the darkness we encounter in our everyday lives.

3. The Power of the Holy Spirit

John 16:7 NLT - 7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.

Luke 24:49 NLT - 49 "And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."

Acts 10:38 NLT - 38 And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.