



Connect to the Mission

Leader's Guide

Week 6

Topic: Matthew 4:19/Answering The 4 Calls of Christ

PREWORK: Read the full leader's guide and watch the videos on the website. Note the time of the videos so you can plan well.

Speaker: Pastor Mark Danzey

Start script****

It seems that today men and women all over the world are in search of something. If it is happiness, they will be disappointed because the pursuit of happiness is the main source of unhappiness. The gospel message came to us on its way to someone else. In other words, we must take this message of hope, life, salvation, and purpose and share it with others. This is to be done not in a passing comment but in the context of life-on-life discipleship. The discipleship group is an excellent way to engage in this journey with others interested in the same direction. Having a consistent time where life is shared with others in an environment of reading scripture, prayer, trust, and accountability is a gift.

When Jesus told the 11 to "...Go [and] make disciples..." (Matt. 28:19) they didn't have to ask him what he meant or how to do it. They had been disciples for 3 years. They had experienced it and were now capable and qualified to carry the ministry of Jesus to the next generation. They did it! This is part of our spiritual history. The question is, will we carry it forward to be our legacy as well?

The disciples must have pondered and considered their life with Christ and remembered a statement he made early in their calling. In Matthew 4:19, Jesus gives them the destination he had in mind for them in the invitation to follow him. This passage may be one of the most brief and comprehensive verses in all of scripture. "'Come, follow me,' Jesus says, 'and I will make you fishers of men.'" Within this one verse, we see a framework known as "The 4 Calls of Christ."

The First Call of Christ is to Salvation.

Jesus declares, "Come." In this simple word is a deep theological truth. Come as you are -- just as you are. This is an invitation of inclusion to get near to him and answer this call with a "Yes" to Jesus. The first step in this journey begins with accepting the invitation to life in Christ.

The Second Call of Christ is to Lordship.

Jesus declares, "Follow Me." The Greek word for "Lord" is "Kurios" which means "Owner." If one is known as a "land-lord", it means they "own the land." To follow Jesus, we must declare that He is the Lord of our life. He owns it all! He leads, I follow. This is what it means to live under Lordship. It's like that prayer of old states, "The answer is YES Lord, now what's the question?" When we follow Jesus, we surrender to his call, his authority, and his direction. We are called to simply follow.

The Third Call of Christ is to Discipleship.

Jesus declares, "I will make you." This is the process of transformation that takes place when we have accepted the invitation. We are actively following Jesus by living our life by his teachings and principles and allowing the Holy Spirit to do a refining work on our mind, will and emotions. Some call this the process of "Sanctification" which simply means the action or process of being freed from sin and purified. It was Jesus who set this plan into motion by calling you and others on the same journey into a spiritual relationship with Him. He put the first small group together and gave us this model. Christianity is a team sport and was never designed to be a solo sport. When we commit to a discipleship group, we will grow in ways we could never grow on our own.

The Fourth Call of Christ is to Purpose

Jesus declared, "...Fishers of [people]..." People are the crowning creation of God. All of humanity is loved and pursued by God for relationship. Since God is no longer walking the earth in human form, He mostly works through men and women who have answered the first three calls to invite, teach, encourage, and lead others to a meaningful relationship with Jesus. This is an eternal work. Loving, serving, and leading others is the only work that will carry into eternity.

Everything else we accomplish on earth will pale in comparison to the life we live for God and a large part of our life in Christ is how we help and encourage others to live a life of discipleship. This is the ultimate responsibility of every parent, every friend, every disciple of Jesus. What sense does it make if we have found the key to the meaning of life, but do not share that with others through disciple-making? When a man or women answers the fourth call, life takes on a different dimension. Rarely do I hear disciplinmakers wondering what God's will is for their life. They know and have learned to prioritize the spiritual life by studying the life and teaching of Jesus and modeling their life in the same way. Even as 21st century followers of Jesus, Mathew 4:19 is an invitation and process for your life in Christ. As Christians, Christ's call on our lives enables us to find God's will for our lives and live a life of purpose and meaning.

As you remember The 4 Calls of Christ -- Salvation, Lordship, Discipleship, Purpose -- ask yourself, where am I in this process? If I were told to make disciples, would I have a clear understanding of what to do and what outcome I would be expected to achieve? If not, then the best next step would be to experience a discipleship group for yourself. Many have found that once they have committed to and experienced a discipleship group, it was transformational for them and equipped them to lead others.

End Script****

Tough questions prep:

Was Jesus only referring this direction to the 11 or was Paul only referring to Timothy when it comes to being a spiritual reproducer?

Answer: I hope not. Then that would mean millions of disciplemakers through the centuries were not following God's plan for their life but following the plan for the 11 or Timothy. On the contrary, the greatest joy a Christian can receive is participating in the growth of the kingdom of God. There simply is no greater joy than to participate in the transformation of a lost soul into a spiritually minded, fruitful believer.

I am not a gifted teacher and somewhat introverted. Is it possible to disciple one or two instead of leading a group of people?

Answer: YES. More impact can be made on 2 or 3 than on 8-10. We believe that the perfect number for a group is 6. 2 leaders and 4 participants. 1 leader for 2 people. Most important is to be faithful to the number God brings you even if that is just one person to invest in.

How long should I be disciplined in a group before I disciple others?

Answer: We believe it is best to be in a group for 3 years to be trained before leading your own group. This may seem like a commitment but in the light of eternity it is a blink of an eye. This calling to make disciples is such an honor, privilege and sacred trust, that we want to take it seriously and be fully equipped to be the best we can be for Christ. He certainly gave His best for us.

What is my next step? Join a Discipleship group and be blessed.

Leaders, please present your testimony to build relationships.

Key Scriptures: Jesus said, "Come, follow me, I will make you fishers of people" (Matthew 4:19).

Class Timeline:

	Estimated time
1. Introductions	15 min
2. Teaching Video	Mark Danzey, 6 minutes
3. Discussion Questions	20 min
4. Testimonial Video	Ray Bachman, 5 minutes
5. Takeaways	10 min
6. Prayer	1 min
7. Invitation for next week	1 min

1.Introduce the content and video for this class (say in your own words):

Over the last several weeks, we have been intently focused on Matthew 28:18-20 and on how to live the “Great Commission” as a lifestyle. The fact that you are in this discussion today speaks to your interest and desire to fulfill God’s plan for your life. There simply is no higher calling than to live devoted to the cause of Christ. God loves us just as we are, but God also loves us too much for us to stay right where we are. He wants us to be Christ-like. Living out The 4 Calls of Christ as we will learn today can transform us into the person and onto the path of purpose.

God is for us and not against us and a significant sign of spiritual maturity is when we finally realize that everything God has planned for us is for our ultimate best.

You and I are saved FROM something, and we are saved FOR something. We are saved from a meaningless, anxious, and selfish existence and we are saved for the abundant, meaningful, and purposeful life as a disciple of Jesus. This study will reveal God’s Invitation, direction, and ultimate purpose for the life of the ancient and modern believer.

2.Play the teaching video.

3.Discussion questions:

1. Where do you see yourself in The 4 Calls? Salvation, Lordship, Discipleship, Purpose? How can you move to the next step?
2. Why do you believe that many Christians today are intimidated by the purposeful calling of being a disciple maker?
3. What inhibits you from allowing God to use you to help others grow in their faith life?

4. What obstacles could prevent you from joining a discipleship group and how might you overcome these obstacles?

4. Play the short personal testimony video.

Additional point:

Men and Women who have said “Yes” to God’s great invitation to follow Him have found the key to the abundant life. We see this in the lives of the early disciples and the same is true today. Instead of trying to figure all of this out, the best next step is to join a discipleship group. It is in this intentional small group, you will grow in knowledge, acquire skills to lead others and develop a Christ like character that can impact our word view, relationships, and many aspects of the way we live our lives. New life in Christ means we live in new ways and the discipleship group is the wonderful place to experience this. There have been many people right here at Mount Pisgah that have stated that being in a discipleship group was one of the most helpful experiences to grow in their Christian faith and leadership. Learning to abide in Christ results in an abundant and fruitful life (John 15:7-9).

5. Closing / takeaways in your own words:

1. Due to the fact that you are here learning about Jesus and growing in faith, you are on the path God has for your life.
2. God outlines His vision for your life with His invitation from Matthew 4:19.
3. Do not walk this journey alone. Join a discipleship group. We are better together.

Give the brochures on Discipleship Groups and have a 1-1 conversation with each class member about moving to a discipleship group or 1-1 discipled opportunity until a group starts.

6. Close in prayer Use the PRAY model as we teach them to pray:

P = praise – praise God for who He is and what he has done -- Use attributes to describe Him

R = Repent – helps us confess any sins and change the way we think or feel

A = Ask – petition your request for this group to our Father in Heaven including their understanding of Jesus’ mission

Y = Yield – Submit to God’s will and let go of our will

PRAISE	Matthew 6:9	"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.'"
REPENT	Matthew 6:12	"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."
ASK	Matthew 6:11&13	"Give us this day our daily bread." "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]"
YIELD	Matthew 6:10	"Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."