

Invitation

One Church, Encountering Jesus,
Equipping Disciples, and Living Mercy

Put out into deep water and lower
your nets for a catch.

Luke 5:4

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Purpose

This series will provide you with your personal next step to helping your parish become a missional community.

You will gain:

1. Stronger relationships.

When we gather together around the word of God, he draws us closer to Himself and to each other. Before the Lord sends people out, he gathers them in the "upper room" for prayer.

2. Meditation on invitation.

These gatherings are an extended meditation on the theme of invitation. When Jesus invites us to become "fishers of men" that experience is often a conversion moment. You will gather to hear that invitation and experience that conversion in community.

3. First step into mission.

When we gather with each other we are not really going out on mission. However, every missionary must hear the call from the Lord and be sent out from a community. These gatherings can be a first step to going out.

Disclaimers

1. *This is not group counseling.* If someone is experiencing strong emotion (particularly if it is a negative emotion), some in the group may be tempted to step in to comfort in a way that could be distracting for the rest of the group. Do your best to redirect the conversation and allow Jesus to finish what he has started in their heart.
2. *This is more than intellectual discussion.* We are not primarily seeking intellectual understanding, but prayer – a heart-to-heart conversation with God. As such, historical background, language, and other intellectual insights are best left to another time.

Suggested Meeting Outline

20 Minutes	Casual Conversation	Provide your group members an opportunity to build relationships – it will allow them to be more honest in later group discussions.
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10 Minutes	Psalm & Conversation Starters	Read the Psalm aloud and check in on last week's group action.
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45 Minutes	WRAP with the Gospel	Ask for a volunteer to read the Gospel passage aloud; then follow the process for WRAP as outlined in the guide.
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10 Minutes	Going Deeper	Read the Scripture verses and ask the "going deeper questions" to guide your group's discussion.
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5 Minutes	Group Action & Psalm	Introduce the group action and encourage your group to take the challenge. Then read the Psalm aloud as a closing prayer.
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Total Time: 90 Minutes	End on Time	Everyone is free to leave at this point, but the leader should be prepared to stick around for anyone would like to continue the discussion.
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The WRAP Method

1. Pray to the Holy Spirit for open hearts and the gift of prayer. Draw your group members' attention to any particular graces they are seeking in this time.
2. **WRITE**
 - a. **Read the Passage Aloud.** It is best to have a consistent reader, as some people get distracted as reading styles change.
 - b. Guide your group members to notice where the Lord draws their attention and **write** it down. This could be a word, phrase, or image. Give them permission to re-read the passage silently.
 - c. Invite anyone in your group who feels comfortable to share what the Lord is bringing to their attention. Acknowledge their contributions with a simple smile while encouraging silence rather than conversation at this point.
3. **REFLECT**
 - a. Read it aloud again
 - b. Invite your group members to deeper reflection on the scripture passage, saying something like, "Let the Lord draw your mind back to what initially grabbed your attention and use your imagination and intellect to **reflect** on what is going on in the passage."
 - c. Allow your group members time to write, then invite them to share as they feel comfortable.
4. **APPLY**
 - a. Read the passage aloud a final time.
 - b. Invite your group members to see the personal application of the Gospel passage, saying something like, "This time make it personal as you **apply** the passage to yourself. Where are you in the story?"
 - c. Allow time for writing, then invite people to share.
5. **PRAY**
 - a. Allow time for each member of your group to write a personal **prayer** in response to God.
 - b. Close with an Our Father.

*WRAP is an acronym and method for Lectio Divina from the book WRAP Yourself In Scripture © by Karen & Lawrence Dwyer published by The Institute for Priestly Formation (2011, 2018). The WRAP Method involves four steps: Write, Reflect, Apply, and Pray with Scripture.



First Meeting



First Meeting: **Fishers of Men**

Psalm 116:5, 12-13

℟ Lord, I am your servant.

Gracious is the Lord and righteous; yes, our God is merciful. **℟**

How can I repay the Lord for all the great good done for me? **℟**

I will raise the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. **℟**

Conversation Starter

1. Who is a person you admire for the way they live their Catholic faith?
2. What is one grace you have received from the Lord in the past week?



The Miraculous Draught of Fishes, c. 1886-1896 (James Tissot)

First Meeting:
Fishers of Men

When we have profound encounters with the Lord we sometimes feel afraid but he reassures us and calls us to be "fishers of men."

WRAP with the Gospel - Luke 5:1-11

The call of Simon the fisherman.

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Simon said in reply, “Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.” When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

Write

Reflect

Apply

Pray

100

1. In what ways do you sometimes feel unworthy of Jesus' invitation?
2. How might Jesus want to enter into that situation with you?

Our limitations and unworthiness in the invitation to become “fishers of men” never surprises Jesus. He calls us as we are and promises to be with us in and through our weaknesses.

Commit to making a specific prayer at mass this Sunday, offering yourself to the Lord in service to others.

Lord, I am not worthy, but I hear your invitation to follow you and to become a "fisher of men." I say "yes" to you and to those you invite me to serve.

As a group, choose a 1) date 2) time 3) location and 4) facilitator for your next meeting.

¶ Lord, I am your servant.

Gracious is the Lord and righteous; yes, our God is merciful. **R**

How can I repay the Lord for all the great good done for me? **R**

I will raise the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. **R**



Second Meeting



Second Meeting: Do you love me?

Psalm 42:2, 9, & 12

℟ Why are you cast down my soul?

As a deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God. ℟

By day may the Lord send his mercy, and by night may his righteousness be with me! I will pray to the God of my life... ℟

Why are you downcast, my soul, why do you groan within me? Wait for God, for I shall again praise him, my savior and my God. ℟

Conversation Starter

1. Who in your life has been a true friend to you?
2. What are some characteristics that make your friendships meaningful to you?



The Denial of Saint Peter, c. 1623 (Gerard van Honthorst)

Second Meeting:
Do you love me?

Jesus' invitation is always personal and remains despite our weaknesses. He carries us through the sacrifices required.

WRAP with the Gospel – John 21:15–19
Jesus and Peter.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He then said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” [Jesus] said to him, “Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, “Follow me.”

Write

Reflect

Apply

Pray

Second Meeting:
Do you love me?

Going Deeper Questions

1. How have you seen Jesus be a friend to you?
2. What does it look like for you to lay down your life in an ordinary way?

Summary Thought

Jesus is the type of friend who stays with us no matter what. Our acceptance of his invitation is an acceptance of his friendship and a commitment to introduce him as a friend to others.

Group Action

Think of three people who you could introduce to Jesus. Commit to a moment of prayer for these individuals during your prayer before meals.

Next meeting

As a group, choose a 1) date 2) time 3) location and 4) facilitator for your next meeting.

Psalm 42:2, 9, & 12

✠ Why are you cast down my soul?

As a deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God. **R**

By day may the Lord send his mercy, and by night may his righteousness be with me! I will pray to the God of my life... **R**

Why are you downcast, my soul, why do you groan within me? Wait for God, for I shall again praise him, my savior and my God. **R**



Third Meeting



Third Meeting: **What I do have, I give to you.**

Psalm 19:2, 5, 15

℟ Their message goes out to all the earth.

The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament proclaims the works of his hands. **℟**

A report goes forth through all the earth, their messages, to the ends of the world. **℟**

Let the words of my mouth be acceptable, the thoughts of my heart before you, LORD, my rock and my redeemer. **℟**

Conversation Starter

1. What is something you never would have experienced if you were not invited by a friend?
2. What causes you to say "yes" to another person's invitation?



Saint Peter Healing the Cripple, c. 17th century (Simone Cantarini)

Third Meeting:
What I do have, I give to you.

Although not all of us will be given the power to physically heal, all of us, as disciples, have a relationship with Jesus and can introduce others to him.

WRAP with the Gospel - Acts 3:3-10
Cure of a crippled beggar.

When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked for alms. But Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” He paid attention to them, expecting to receive something from them. Peter said, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, [rise and] walk.” Then Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles grew strong. He leaped up, stood, and walked around, and went into the temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the one who used to sit begging at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with amazement and astonishment at what had happened to him.

Write

Reflect

Apply

Pray

Third Meeting:
What I do have, I give to you.

Going Deeper Questions

1. What holds you back from making invitations to others?
2. Share a time when you made an invitation to others (faith or otherwise) that was well received.

Summary Thought

When we have a relationship with Jesus, we always have something to offer. What we offer is not from us; it is from Him.

Group Action

Commit to making a concrete invitation to at least one person on your list from last time (examples: dinner, game night, mass, bonfire, etc.).

Psalm 19:2, 5, 15

ᚱ Their message goes out to all the earth.

The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament proclaims the works of his hands. **R**

A report goes forth through all the earth, their messages, to the ends of the world. **R**

Let the words of my mouth be acceptable, the thoughts of my heart before you, LORD, my rock and my redeemer. **R**



Archdiocese of Omaha

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**Look in your inbox for an invitation to participate in
an Archdiocesan novena to begin December 2022.**