THE INVITE • PART 3 • LEADER GUIDE

Come Fish

Matthew 4:17-25 • Matthew 9:9-10

New Collective Church • Sunday, September 13, 2026

The Big Idea

Most of us believe we should be telling people about Jesus, most of us are not, and the reason we give ourselves is almost always the same one. I would not know what to say. So we wait to feel ready, and ready never shows up. In Matthew 4, Jesus walks up to fishermen and talks to them in fishing language, then spends the next three years letting them watch him work before he sends them anywhere. The question this week turns out to be smaller and harder than we expect. Not whether you have the answers, but whether you have done the unglamorous preparation, and whether you are close enough to anybody for it to matter.

Opening Prayer

Thank God that he invited us before we knew what we were doing. Ask him to make this group honest about what actually stops us from talking about him, and willing to do the boring work of getting ready.

Icebreaker

Who let you tag along and learn something by getting in their way, and what did you pick up from them?

LEADER NOTE

Five minutes. This is doing real work, not just warming the room. Pastor Mark's picture of the child who is not helping and is mostly in the way is exactly what Jesus chose to do with twelve men, and the answers people give here are the raw material for movement 1. Listen for anyone who says they only learned it because somebody let them be useless for a while.

Read Together

Open your Bible or app. Read Matthew 4:18-22 out loud, then read verses 23 to 25, which is what these men signed up to watch.

Matthew 4:18-22 Come follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people.

Matthew 4:23-25 What they watched him do. Teaching, proclaiming, healing, crowds.

Matthew 4:17 Jesus' own cast. Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Matthew 9:9-10 The tax booth, and then the table at Matthew's house.

Mark 6:7 · Luke 10:1 Sent out two by two.

LEADER NOTE

Read verses 23 to 25 even though the sermon focused on 19. That is the job description they accepted without knowing it, and reading it aloud makes the point that they said yes before they understood. Pastor Mark's line is that Jesus talks to you about what you already know so he can invite you into what you do not yet understand.

Discussion

1. Do, Make, Produce

Matthew 4:19

The three-part spine of the message, and all three need to survive the conversation: do something new with you, make something new out of you, produce something new through you. Keep Pastor Mark's qualifier on the third one too, that a life of productivity does not mean your life is now just working harder. It means a productivity set by what God values rather than what the world measures.

> ***You have permission to stay in your job. And he may speak to you about you moving on from that job.***

a. Which of the three is hardest to believe about yourself: that he wants to work with you, remake you, or produce something through you?

b. If your primary allegiance actually shifted, what would look different in your work next week?

> **LEADER NOTE**
> *The job clarification is the most immediately useful thing in this message and it exists because real people acted on last week. Pastor Mark did not say never leave a job, he said your employment is not the point and your primary allegiance is. If someone is genuinely weighing a change, the group's job is to slow it down and pray, not to validate it in one evening or talk them out of it.*

> **LEADER NOTE**
> *On the Greek. The word behind I will send you out is poieo, which does carry to do, to make, and to produce, so Pastor Mark had the lexical range right. Worth knowing that the literal force here is I will make you, which is why older translations read I will make you fishers of men, and he said so from the platform. The with you and through you senses come from the surrounding narrative rather than from the word itself. That is ordinary preaching and he was transparent about it. Mark 3:14 is the anchor underneath it: he appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach. Being with him comes first.*

2. Fishing Involves Preparation

Matthew 4:21

James and John are mending nets when Jesus arrives, and the whole point is how unglamorous that is. Keep all three preparations Pastor Mark named rather than collapsing them into be more spiritual: private daily prayer including prayer for specific people, time in the scriptures so you know it yourself, and showing up and paying attention on Sunday.

> ***You're convinced that you're incapable of actually sharing it, but you're not. You're more than capable.***

a. Which of the three preparations is weakest for you right now, and what makes that one hard to keep?

b. What do you actually believe you are missing that keeps you from talking about Jesus?

> **LEADER NOTE**
> *Question b is the one that matters. Almost everyone answers I would not know what to say, and almost nobody has tested whether that is true. Pastor Mark already gave them the content: Jesus gave his life for the forgiveness of sin, he rose from the dead, and you can ask him to save you, forgive you and make you new. If your group says they do not know what to say, have them say that much out loud to each other. Most people discover they already know it.*

> **LEADER NOTE**
> *He made a pointed aside about not outsourcing your knowledge of scripture to an AI answer, and said if you do not know your stuff you will be formed by ideologies that are not the kingdom's. 1 Peter 3:15 is the text underneath this whole movement: always be prepared to give an answer for the hope that you have, with gentleness and respect.*

3. Fishing Involves Proximity

Matthew 4:18 · Matthew 9:9-10

Jesus goes to the booth and then to the house. Hold both of the ways Pastor Mark said people hear this: some take it as permission to live exactly as before, and others hear it with the maturity to know there are rooms to enter but not to lose themselves in. Then keep his relief, which is that if you cannot teach, preach, heal or help, you can almost certainly eat.

> ***You begin by listening. You begin by come and see what Jesus is like. Come and see what he has done in my life.***

a. Why do you think we jump to needing answers when what is usually needed is presence?

b. Who could you share a meal with this month, and what boundary do you need to be honest about first?

> **LEADER NOTE**
> *Handle the boundary material carefully. Pastor Mark used a drinking problem as his example and was right to: someone who has struggled there does not belong in a bar on mission, and naming that as wisdom rather than weak faith is genuinely good pastoring. Do not turn your living room into a place where anyone has to disclose anything. Ask the question as written, let people apply it privately, and if someone does open up, the group's job is to be with them rather than to fix them. Follow up one to one later in the week.*

> **LEADER NOTE**
> *Also worth naming: he said the agenda-first coffee meeting is about twelve coffees premature. Groups that get excited about evangelism often go straight to scripts. The correction is that listening is the method, not the warm-up to the method.*

4. Fishing Involves Teamwork

Matthew 4:18 · Mark 6:7 · Luke 10:1

Two brothers, then two more, then sent out two by two. The claim is simply that you cannot cast the net and carry the load without a team, and that this does not mean dragging another believer to every conversation.

a. Where in your life are you trying to carry something alone that was never meant to be carried alone?

b. Who in this group could you actually ask to be in your corner this month?

> **LEADER NOTE**
> *This is the movement where your group can actually do something in the room. Pair people up before they leave and have them exchange a text. A group that leaves with a partner does the application. A group that leaves with a principle usually does not.*

5. Fishing Involves Casting

Matthew 4:18 · Matthew 4:17

The pastoral heart of the message, and both halves have to stay together. You are not responsible for whether anybody comes to Jesus, and you are responsible to cast. Drop the first half and the group carries guilt that was never theirs. Drop the second and the group gets comfortable doing nothing.

> ***We have a responsibility to care enough about people to cast.***

> ***Invited people invite people.***

a. What changes for you if the outcome was never your responsibility, but the cast always was?

b. Where have you been asking God to do something great for you, and what would it mean to start asking that for somebody else?

> **LEADER NOTE**
> *1 Corinthians 3:6-7 is the verse for this and it is worth reading aloud. Paul planted, Apollos watered, God made it grow, and neither the planter nor the waterer is anything. That is Pastor Mark's point stated by Paul, and it is the single most freeing thing you can hand somebody who has been quietly carrying the salvation of a family member as their personal failure. Question b is his closing challenge, that we move past wanting God to do something great for us and start believing him for other people.*

Application: Pick One

Pick the one you would rather avoid.

- Notice the excuse. Catch the moment you decide you are not prepared enough, and write down what you thought was missing.
- Carry a verse. Take Matthew 4:19 or 1 Peter 3:15 with you this week.
- Mend one net. Pick one preparation, prayer, the scriptures, or paying attention on Sunday, and do it daily this week.
- Just eat. One meal or coffee with the person you named two weeks ago, with no agenda except listening.

LEADER NOTE

The third one is the most likely to actually change something, and the least likely to get picked. Mending one net every day for a week is small enough to do and specific enough to check on. If your group picks, write down who chose which and ask about it next time.

Closing Prayer

Thank Jesus that he chose to do this work with people rather than around them.

Ask him to prepare this group, and let each person name which preparation they are weakest in.

Pray by name for the people this group has carried since week one, and ask God to do the part that was never ours.

LEADER NOTE

The second prompt is a quiet confession without calling it one, and it works better if you go first and name your own weakest of the three. The third keeps the series moving, since those names have now been carried for three weeks.

"You're not responsible for whether or not people come to Jesus. But we have a responsibility to cast."

Pastor Mark

Going Deeper

- Read 1 Corinthians 3:6-7. Paul plants, Apollos waters, God makes it grow. The relief of this message.
- Read Matthew 9:35-38, just after the scene at Matthew's house. The harvest is plentiful, and the first instruction is to pray.
- Read Luke 8:1-3 and Acts 18:3. People with jobs and means funded and worked alongside the mission.

Read This Before You Meet, Not During

Everything from here on is preparation for you as the leader. None of it needs to be covered in the room. Skim it before the meeting, keep the accuracy notes in your back pocket in case someone asks, and run the session off the pages above.

Sermon Arc and Key Moves

Pastor Mark gave his own outline. The whole message zooms in on one line from Matthew 4:19 and then opens it in five moves.

- Frame. Week one was come see, week two was come follow. This week narrows to I will send you out to fish for people.
- 1. Poieo. To do, make or produce. Something new with you, out of you, and through you. Plus the clarification that your job is not the point, your primary allegiance is.
- 2. Preparation. Nets get washed, dried and mended. Private prayer, the scriptures, and gathered worship. The real reason we stay quiet is that we do not feel ready.
- 3. Proximity. The booth, then the table. Two ways people hear this, and a real boundary for anyone who cannot safely be in certain rooms. If you cannot teach or heal, you can eat.
- 4. Teamwork. Two brothers, then two more, then sent two by two. You cannot cast and carry the load alone.
- 5. Casting. Not responsible for the catch, responsible for the cast. Jesus' own cast was repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. It is close and it is open.
- Landing. Move past wanting God to do something great for you, and start believing him for other people. Invited people invite people.

Key Cross-References

Verified against NIV. Each supports a specific claim made from the platform.

- Mark 3:14. He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach. With him comes before sent out, which is the whole of do something new with you.
- 1 Peter 3:15. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have, with gentleness and respect. The text under the preparation movement.
- 1 Corinthians 3:6-7. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. The strongest verse on the page, and the one that carries the casting movement.
- Matthew 9:37-38. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers. Sits a few verses after the scene at Matthew's house, and it makes prayer the first move rather than the fallback.
- Mark 6:7 and Luke 10:1. Sending them out two by two. See the note below.
- Luke 8:1-3. Joanna, Susanna and many others were helping to support them out of their own means. The people with jobs and resources who funded the mission.
- Acts 18:3. Paul stayed and worked with Aquila and Priscilla because he was a tentmaker as they were. Ministry and a trade in the same life.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12. Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, mind your own business and work with your hands, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders. Work as witness rather than an obstacle to it.
- Colossians 3:23-24. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord. Primary allegiance inside an ordinary job.
- Acts 26:20. Repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds. See the note on repent below.

Accuracy Notes

LEADER NOTE

A reference to have correct. From the platform the sending out in twos was given as Matthew 6 and Luke 10. Luke 10:1 is right. Matthew 6 is the Sermon on the Mount and has no sending in it. The two by two language is Mark 6:7, and Matthew's parallel is chapter 10, where the Twelve are listed in pairs without the phrase. The guide prints Mark 6:7 and Luke 10:1. Nothing in the message depends on it and there is no reason to raise it unless somebody reading along asks.

LEADER NOTE

On repent as rethink. The Greek behind repent does carry a change of mind, so rethink is a defensible rendering and Pastor Mark's expansion was generous, covering decisions, relationships, meaning and purpose. Know that biblical repentance is more than intellectual reconsideration. It includes turning, an actual change of direction and allegiance. Acts 26:20 puts both together, repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds. Pastor Mark's own language about primary allegiance earlier in the message covers this. Just do not let your group settle on repentance being a change of opinion.

LEADER NOTE

On the kingdom being open. He said it plainly and repeatedly, that the kingdom has come near, it is close, and it is open, and you do not work your way up into it. That is exactly right and it is the gospel. Keep it paired with the word Jesus actually used in the same sentence, which was repent. Open to all who would come in is not the same as everybody is already in, and Pastor Mark preached both halves. If a group member hears only the open half, the sentence itself is the correction.

LEADER NOTE

A pastoral one. This message names the excuse most people in your room are actually using, and that can land as shame rather than relief. The tone Pastor Mark took was you are more capable than you think, not you are failing. Keep that tone. If someone leaves this session feeling guilty about everyone they have not talked to, the message did the opposite of what it was for, and 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 is the correction to hand them.

Series Alignment

Part	Title / Focus	Core Scripture
Part 1	Come See	John 1:35-51; John 4:7-42; John 1:14
Part 2	Come Follow	Matthew 4:18-22; 9:9-13; 11:28-30; 16:24-26; 19:16-26
Part 3 ← HERE	**Come Fish**	**Matthew 4:17-25; Matthew 9:9-10**

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide was drafted with AI assistance from the sermon transcript and Pastor Mark's own message notes, then reviewed by a group leader for scriptural accuracy and faithfulness to the message before it was shared. Scripture references follow the NIV. If something does not sound like the message you heard, please say so.