

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fisher of Men (Season 2) | Pastor Mike McKinney

Monday, Oct. 6 - Sunday, Oct. 12 (Week 4)

EMPHASIS FOR THE MONTH: **Laying a Foundation & Building Relational Capital**

As our groups get started this semester, let's be intentional about creating space for people to really get to know one another. Building relational capital doesn't happen all at once, it grows when we leave time for conversation, listen well, and encourage members to share life together. This month, prioritize slowing down the agenda, leaving room before and after meetings for fellowship, and finding simple ways to help group members connect. Strong relationships built now will become the foundation for deeper discipleship and care in the months ahead.

ICE BREAKER: If you could be an expert in any profession for a day, what would it be and why?

CAB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Prime Timers (50+) please join us for an evening of fellowship that will include a German dinner, a devotional by Jeff Burkes, and a time of group games. A part of the dinner will be catered, but your help will be needed with side dishes, desserts, and beverages. Please sign-up in our Monday email newsletter or by emailing info@churchatbergen.org. Thank you! Any questions, please contact Kris Rienstra at kgrienstra@gmail.com
2. Our next Child Dedication Class will be held on Saturday, October 18 at 10:00 AM at the Hicks' home in Paramus. This class is an important step for parents who wish to dedicate their children and learn more about what it means. Please fill out the form in our Monday email newsletter. Questions? Contact our BergenKIDS Director, Barbara Krieger.
3. We hope you will join us every Tuesday at 6:30 PM for our weekly prayer gathering.

PRAYER FOR DISCUSSION: Leader or Co-Leader prays for the discussion time. Pray that The Holy Spirit would assist in the conversing, processing, and listening of the discussion.

SERMON DISCUSSION TIME: Have someone read this week's scripture from Luke 5:1-11, and then this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

In this sermon, Pastor Mike unveils a profound truth about discipleship through the lens of Peter's transformative encounter with Jesus. What begins as a seemingly ordinary fishing lesson becomes a divine intersection of holiness and grace that forever changes Peter's life. Through the miraculous catch of fish, Peter confronts the terrifying reality of God's holiness, falling at Jesus' feet in recognition of his own sinfulness. Yet instead of destruction, he encounters Christ's unexpected grace -- "Do not be afraid." This powerful collision of divine holiness and mercy at the cross becomes the catalyst for Peter's total surrender, compelling him to leave everything and follow Jesus as a "fisher of men." Pastor Mike challenges believers to experience this same radical transformation, warning that encountering only God's holiness leads to fear, while experiencing only grace creates cheap sentimentalism. He urgently



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calls the church to "let down their nets," sharing the life-changing gospel before the age of grace ends, reminding us that our lives are meant to be extensions of Jesus' invitation into God's kingdom.

QUESTION #1 - Reflect on a time when you felt the holiness of God in your life. How did it impact your understanding of your own sinfulness?

QUESTION #2 - The sermon mentioned that perfect love casts out fear. How have you experienced this in your own life?

QUESTION #3 - The sermon emphasized the urgency of sharing the gospel because the age of grace will not last forever. How does this urgency affect your perspective on evangelism?

QUESTION #4 - How has your understanding of the intersection of holiness and grace transformed your life? Share a personal story if you feel comfortable.

PRAY TOGETHER: Spend time taking **and recording** prayer requests and then pray together as a group (*I strongly encourage you to send out the prayer requests weekly to your group to keep everyone informed and in the loop on how to pray for one another throughout the week. This also makes it easier to check-in with people who have shared requests to see how the Lord has been working in their lives*).

