

A New Way of Living: Disciplemakers

D-Group Study Guide – Week 2: Relational Outreach

1. Social/Fellowship Time (10-15 minutes)

2. Content/Spiritual Conversations (30-35 minutes)

Debriefing from sermon clip: “Relational Outreach” (previous week’s homework)

• Debrief – Big Idea

When Jesus called His first disciples, He called fishermen – and He gave them a whole new kind of catch: “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” The big idea is simple: **Followers fish**. If you follow Jesus, you’re called to **Relational Outreach** – whether or not you’re a gifted evangelist. Because the command isn’t to catch 3,000 fish – the command is simply to fish.

1. **QUESTION:** Jamey admits up front that he isn’t a gifted evangelist. On a scale from “world-record fisherman” to “haven’t had a line in the water in years,” where would you place yourself when it comes to sharing your faith? Why?

• Debrief – Scripture Deep Dive

We see what it looks like for followers to fish in Luke 5, in the ordinary encounters of Jesus’ ministry, and in Peter’s first letter.

1. **READ Luke 5:4-11 — “I will make you fishers of men”**

And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him. (ESV)

1. **QUESTION:** Peter had fished all night and caught nothing, yet he said, “But at your word I will let down the nets.” In the video, Jamey points out that Peter’s responsibility was to put

his nets into the water; the number of fish that swam into Peter's nets "was up to Jesus." How might that truth change the way you feel about sharing your faith?

2. **QUESTION:** Peter's first response is, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man." Jesus' response is "Do not be afraid." What fears tend to keep you from fishing for people? *(Encourage them to be specific – fear of rejection, not knowing enough, damaging a relationship, etc.)*
3. **QUESTION:** The message points out that, even though Peter was called a "fisher of men," the Gospels never record him bringing anyone to Jesus. Yet after he was filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, about 3,000 people came to faith in a single day (Acts 2:41). What does that tell you about where the power for discipling comes from?

2. The first tip that Jamey shared is to fish at the right times. READ John 4:7-10, 28-29 — The woman at the well

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ... So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" (ESV)

Notice the pattern: Jesus doesn't schedule an evangelistic event here. He's at a well in the middle of the day, and He asks for a drink. An *everyday and ordinary* moment becomes an eternal one. And the woman – a brand-new follower with no training at all – immediately starts fishing. She goes back to her town and simply tells people what Jesus has done for her: "Come, see."

1. **QUESTION:** Jamey wore a fishing hat to make a point about intentionality. Where are your "fishing hat" places – the everyday spaces (office, classroom, coffee shop, practice, the golf course, your neighborhood) where you regularly cross paths with people who are far from God?
2. **QUESTION:** The Samaritan woman, the man freed from demons, and the man born blind all did the same thing: they told people what Jesus had done for them. If someone asked you today, could you share in two minutes who you were before Jesus, what He did for you, and who you are now because of Him? *(Invite one or two people to practice sharing their story with the group. Consider starting with your story if nobody volunteers initially.)*

3. Fishing for people takes love and patience. READ 1 Peter 3:15.

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect... (NIV)

In the video, Jamey asks whether relational outreach is just a “bait-and-switch.” His answer: **When the bait is genuine love, there is no switch.** And because relational outreach requires a relationship, we have to reel slowly – investing with patience and leaving the results to Jesus. Whether we’ve been walking with someone for six months or 60 years, we never own the results.

1. **QUESTION:** Why is it so important to lead with genuine love in our relational outreach encounters? Have you ever been on the receiving end of a gospel conversation that felt more like a sales pitch than genuine love? How did it feel?
2. **QUESTION:** Tommy Resha fought his marlin for more than 32 hours and still watched it swim away. How do you respond when someone you’ve been praying for and investing in says “no”? (*Encourage them to share any discouragement honestly.*)
3. **QUESTION:** Finish this sentence: “I fish for people because _____. ” (What are your motivations?)

• Debrief – Practical Application

1. **Put on your fishing hat.** Choose one everyday place you’ll be this week (work, school, lunch with a friend, the gym, your street) and go in with your imaginary fishing hat on. Before you walk in, pray and ask God to show you who He’s already working on.
2. **Write your testimony.** In a paragraph or two, write down who you were before Jesus, what He did for you, and who you are now because of Him. It doesn’t have to be long, elegant, or dramatic – just honest. Practice it out loud and be ready to share it with your group next week.
3. **Take one patient step with your “three.”** Look back at the three people you named last week. Pick one and take one relational step this week (grab coffee, share a meal, invite them to a Freshwater event). Remember: the bait is love, and the catch is up to Jesus.

• Debrief – Closing Prayer

Close by praying specifically for each person’s “three” by name, and ask the Holy Spirit to give everyone in the group the boldness to get their lines in the water this week – and the faith to leave the catch to Jesus.

3. Homework for next week

- Watch week 3 of the Disciplemakers video content: [Week 3 title]
 - <https://thefreshwater.church/2026/10/disciplemakers26-w3/>