

# Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. We sincerely hope you will be especially aware of God's presence as we worship. If this is your first time to worship with us, here is what you can expect:

## Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship, you are free to connect with God in whatever biblical way that expresses your heart's adoration. Some may remain seated, others stand, kneel, clap or lift their hands.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

## Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

## Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{over for sermon notes}

## "Gone Fishing"

*"Love and live beyond the walls of the church"*

Matthew 4:19

**FOCUS FOR THE DAY:** *"What's missing? I thought there should be more."*

**Matthew 4:19** "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

**Matthew 4:18-20 Msg** "Walking along the beach of Lake Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers: Simon (later called Peter) and Andrew. They were fishing, throwing their nets into the lake. It was their regular work. Jesus said to them, **"Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass."** They didn't ask questions, but simply dropped their nets and followed."

**God is calling each of us to learn to love and live beyond the walls of the church.**

If you call yourself a **follower of Jesus** – God wants to make you a fisher of men and women.

### • What is keeping us from being world-changers for Jesus?

- We don't want to -- or we don't think we can.

**John 13:17** "Now that you know these things, God will bless you for **doing** them."

**2 Corinthians 12:10** "That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses ... and troubles that I suffer for Christ. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**"

- **We try to fish before we learn to \_\_\_\_\_** (we try to do it on our own.)

**John 15:5** Jesus said, "For **apart from me you can do nothing.**"

- We need to focus on the **"following" side** before we will ever find \_\_\_\_\_ or the results that last from the **"fishing" side.**

### What is needed to love and live beyond these walls?

#### 1. We need to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus' coming.

- "Jesus is coming soon – be ready at all times!"

**2 Peter 3:3-4 NCV** "It is most important for you to understand what will happen in the last days. People will laugh at you. They will live doing the evil things they want to do. They will say, **"Jesus promised to come again. Where is he?** Our fathers have died, but the world continues the way it has been since it was made."

## No anticipation means no preparation!!!!

**Matthew 24:42** “So always be ready, because you don’t know the day your Lord will come.”

**Matthew 25:10** “... the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.”

### 2. We need to quit \_\_\_\_\_.

**Hebrews 2:1** “So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it.”

#### • How do you know if you are drifting spiritually?

##### Checkpoints – fence posts:

- Bible reading lacking - Prayer time sporadic
- Lazy in church/small group attendance
- Slacking in giving of time, talents and tithes

### 3. We need to follow Jesus with the \_\_\_\_\_ of becoming like Him.

- If we want to be like Jesus, we need to intentionally focus on Him.

**Jeremiah 29:13** “Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I’ll make sure you won’t be disappointed.”

**“We are as devoted and close to Jesus as we choose to be.”**

- Rick Warren

**2 Corinthians 11:3** “But I am afraid that ... your minds may somehow be led astray from your pure devotion to Christ.”

- We must believe that \_\_\_\_\_ is the way.

***Do you love Jesus so much that you are making every effort to be like Him?***

- \_\_\_\_\_ is the heart of a follower of Jesus and the best evidence of spiritual growth.

#### MY ACTION PLAN:

So have you figured out *what may be missing in your life*? Are you ready to put out the “Gone Fishing” sign?

**The key is still learning to hear God’s voice –**

- Join with someone of the same gender and agree to read the same passage of the Bible together -- 15 minutes in the morning and 15 minutes at night.
- Take notes on whatever you sense God is saying to you about it.
- Then get together weekly to pray and talk about it.

**Be intentional: “Learn to love and live beyond the church walls.”**

## “DIGGING DEEPER”

For personal or small group study

Week of December 9, 2007

**QUICK REVIEW:** Which point or scripture passage most challenged, confused, or caught your attention in this week’s message? Why?

### TODAY’S FOCUS

1. Do you feel that “something” is perhaps missing in the average Christian’s life? Have you ever sensed something missing in you? Describe it if you can.

What importance is it to first become followers of Jesus, and then become a fisher of men and women? What part does love play in all this? [Matthew 4:17, 19; 6:33; 1 John 5:2-3; John 13:34-35]

2. How does Jesus’ call in Matthew 4:18-20 and the mandate found in Matthew 28:19-20 compare? How does being a disciplemaker connect to being a Christ-follower who is a fisher of men? Are they the same or different? Explain.

### GETTING THE POINT

1. Read Matthew 25:1-13. Discuss what truths you sense Jesus is teaching us. [Mark 13:5-13, 32-37; Matthew 24:45-51]

“Jesus is coming soon.” What emotion or thoughts does this statement stir in you? [Matthew 24:36-44]

2. How prevalent does spiritual drifting seem to be in the lives of Christians today? [Hebrews 2:1] How do you know you are drifting? What can you do to turn the tide? [Proverbs 6:6-11; Matthew 6:14-15; 19-21; 33-34; Mark 14:38; Hebrews 6:4-6; James 1:25; Revelation 2:4-5; 3:1-5]

3. How can we be a follower of Jesus, but not really try to become like Him? Why would we attempt to do this? [Isaiah 45:9; John 14:15, 23-24; James 4:3-6; Ephesians 4:17-24; 5:1-4]

### A LOOK INSIDE

1. What have you learned about being a true follower of Jesus Christ as a result of this study? Have you discovered what may be missing in your life? What are some areas you are going to give specific focus on to begin loving and living beyond our church walls?
2. What progress do you sense you are making in learning to hear God’s voice more clearly? Take the initiative to follow through on the “Action Plan” at the end of the sermon notes.