

## Fishing for Men #1

**Pray:** Ask the Lord to make you a fisher of men.

**Read:** 1 Peter 3:13-16

**Fishing for men is a major factor in disciple making. Every believer must learn how to capture men for Christ. None of us are instant soul winners. Christ promises that all who follow Him will be made (developed) into fishers of men (Matthew 4:19). This is a lesson in soul winning. It is designed to help you become a fisher of men. The effective soul winner is a prepared person whose life attracts people to the Saviour. The fruit of the Spirit enables you to carry the life giving seed of the gospel to the world. Opportunities for evangelism abound. The Spirit-led believer will be ready to capture others for Christ. Discover the importance of being ready at all times as you work through this lesson.**

1. First, Peter 3:13 indicates that harm does not normally come to those who are doing good. If you do suffer for righteousness, how does verse 14 direct you to respond if do suffer for the sake of righteousness.

- a) You are (should feel) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) You should not be \_\_\_\_\_
- c) You should not be \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does sanctify the Lord in your hearts mean to you personally? (v.15a) (Discuss)

Peter says, “and always be ready” (v.15b); we must be prepared to share faith. Some people feel that it is unspiritual to do the hard work of memorizing (Gospel and testimony) what to say. They think it should all be spontaneous. But think about this. When a basketball player drops a ball in the hoop in the last seconds of a game, was that spontaneous or rehearsed? It was rehearsed, over and over, to the point where the player could do it in his sleep - and off either foot. He knew the feel of the ball, the court and his foot. That rehearsal set him free to be spontaneous at the moment - no matter where he was on the court, how the ball came to him, or where the players of the other team were. It was because he was rehearsed that they threw the ball to him in the last seconds of the game. It is the same for us. Rehearsal sets us free to be spontaneous and natural. (Discuss thoughts on this)

3. How closely do you follow this Peter’s model (Vv.15, 16)?

You probably know people who were put off Christianity by the way they were spoken to by other Christians. Col. 4:5-6 is helpful on this issue. It is one thing to know what to say, it is another to know how to say it. Verse 6 tells us that the manner in which we tell the gospel is as important as the content of what we say. Our conversation must always be “full of grace” (the manner) as well as being “seasoned with salt” (the content). We may still put people off. That should not surprise us, since people were put off by Jesus and they ultimately put him on a cross. But we still must try to present the gospel at every opportunity.

5. Here are some questions for you to consider and discuss:

Do you have the proper attitude about witnessing (v. 14)? Have you sanctified the Lord in your heart (v. 15)? Are you ready to share your faith (v. 15)? Are you able to witness gently and reverently (v. 15)? Are you willing to leave a good testimony with those who do not respond (v. 16)?

**Pray together; ask the Lord to help you all to “always be ready to give a defence to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you”.**

