



Fishing with Wisdom

Message by Blake Hanson

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*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who **wins** souls is **wise**.
Proverbs 11:30 (BSB)*

*Be **wise** in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be **always** full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:5-6 (NIV)*

FISHING WITH WISDOM MEANS...

1. _____ yourself in the _____.

On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. Luke 5:1-3 (ESV)

2. _____.

*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." Luke 5:4-5 (ESV)*

3. _____ your _____.

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." Luke 5:6-8 (ESV)

4. _____ share your _____.

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. Luke 5:9-11 (ESV)

Midweek Small Group Discussion:

Colossians 4:2-6

Reflecting on the Sunday worship service, was there a challenging word you need to respond to? Was there a question you'd like to ask?

Read Colossians 4:2-6. Afterwards, share with the group any words or phrases that stood out or spoke to you.

Paul's "fishing" – sharing his faith in Christ – landed him in prison, which is where he was when he wrote this letter. Paul asks people to pray for what type door to be opened? (verse 3) Discuss why you think Paul didn't ask for his prison door to be opened.

The "mystery" Paul speaks of in verse 3 is that God's salvation is offered to the Gentiles, not exclusively to the Jews. EVERYONE is within the scope of God's invitation to be saved. Who are the people in your life with whom you have the least in common? How could you show that you care about them?

Reread verse 4. What makes for a "clear" sharing of the gospel story? What type things might cloud a message and make it unclear?

Using the following template to make your story clear, briefly share how you found HOPE in Christ:

- I realized I needed Christ when...
- I committed my life to Christ by...
- The difference Jesus has made in my life is...

What do verses 5 and 6 teach you about being a witness for Christ? Is verse 6 saying that you should have answers to everyone's questions? Why or why not?

When you think of someone in your life who does not yet know Christ, who comes to mind? Not only can you share Christ with that person, you can share our church with them by...

- Praying for them. When and how often will you commit to PRAY for that lost person God has placed in your life?
- Showing them you care. Name one way you will show that person that you CARE about them.
- Inviting them. Is God opening a door for you to INVITE them to an Easter service? If so, when and how?

Close by praying by name for those you will be inviting to church.