

## Life-Sharing Lesson 1 “Why Care About People: God Calls Us” Mark 1:14-20

1. When was the first time you were invited to join a team of any kind and what did you expect to happen?
2. What do you think Jesus expects of us after we get saved?
3. When should a new believer begin to cut himself/herself away from old unsaved friends?

### **Mark 1:14-20** Today's New International Version (TNIV) **Jesus Announces the Good News**

<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

### **Jesus Calls His First Disciples**

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>18</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>19</sup> When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup> Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

4. What did Jesus mean when he said, “He would send us out to fish for people” or in earlier translations “make us fishers of men and of women.”
5. Why are we tempted to ride in the boat and come up with great plans for each other, rather than taking the time to actually fish for people?

6. What does it mean it to say we caught another fish?
  
7. Who or what did God use to catch you?
  
8. Where would you be today, if God would of not sent someone to catch you?
  
9. Why is catching others, so important to God that God sends us out to do it?
  
10. What is the most frightening part of fishing for others for you?
  
11. What are the tools we need to go and fish?
  
12. Pray for the person next to you, that God will give them a new boldness in seeking opportunities to fish.

Life-Sharing Lesson 2 “Why Care About People: We Can Choose ” Acts  
4:5-21

1. If you received a revelation for the cure for leukemia, would you be willing to share it with the world for free? Why?
2. If you received a revelation for the cure for leukemia, would you be willing to share it with the world if you knew that at times people would laugh at you and others would beat you when you tried to give cure to them? Why?

**Acts 4:5-21 Today's New International Version (TNIV)**

<sup>5</sup> The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. <sup>7</sup> They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?”

<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup> If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup> then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup> Jesus is

“the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved.”

<sup>13</sup> When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup> But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. <sup>15</sup> So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. <sup>16</sup> “What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. <sup>17</sup> But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”

<sup>18</sup> Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! <sup>20</sup> As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

<sup>21</sup> After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened.

3. Why is the crucifixion such an important part of the gospel?

4. Why is the resurrection such an important part of the gospel?

5. Why do the Scriptures insist that salvation is found only in Jesus Christ?

6. How does a knowledge of Jesus Christ being the only way, tie in with God's desire to make us fishers of people connect to each other?

7. Do you think the disciples were afraid of the religious leaders in their attempt to fish for people?

8. What did the disciples have in this passage that we may lack?

9. How much of the gospel message do we need to know, to share the gospel of Jesus Christ?

10. How much opposition should we expect to receive in sharing our faith? How much is too much.

**The Story:** Iranian pastor Youcef Nadarkhani faces imminent execution for charges of abandoning Islam and refusing to recant his Christian faith, the American Center for Law and Justice [reports](#).

The 34-year-old husband and father of two, whose case was temporarily delayed in December, may now be executed at any moment without warning, according to a new--and apparently final---trial court verdict. Unfortunately, many of the details surrounding the case remain unclear.

**The Background:** Pastor Nadarkhani's clash with the Iranian government began in 2006 when he was briefly imprisoned on charges of apostasy and evangelism. In 2009 he was arrested for protesting mandated Islamic instruction in his son's school. This charge, however, was soon changed to fit his original "crimes" of apostasy and evangelism.

Nadarkhani was sentenced to death in September 2010 but proceeded to remain alive in prison. In July 2011, his lawyer received a written verdict from the Iranian Supreme Court, which upheld the death sentence yet included a provision for annulment should the pastor recant his faith. In September 2011, the Commission on International Religious Freedom and even President Obama issued statements denouncing Iran's egregious human rights breach and demanding Nadarkhani's immediate release.

Nadarkhani is now approaching 900 days separated from his wife, his two sons, and his church. Nevertheless, God's sustaining grace has enabled him to endure. In a poignant, Scripture-soaked [letter](#) to his congregation dated June 2, 2010, the imprisoned pastor, echoing the apostle Peter, wrote: "[The true believer] does not need to wonder for the fiery trial that has been set on him as though it were something unusual, but it pleases him to participate in Christ's suffering because the believer knows he will rejoice in [Christ's] glory."

11. What would you say Pastor Nadarkhani to encourage him.

12. What do you learn about your own faith as you look at Pastor Nadarkhani's faith.

1. Who has been someone in your life that for no apparent reason just chose to invest in you or to love you?

2. Why do you think God chose to love all people in this world?

### **John 3:16-21 Today's New International Version (TNIV)**

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. <sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> All those who do evil hate the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who live by the truth come into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

3. God's love is reaching out unconditionally. Do we want people to come into the church just as they are or do we want them to wait until they clean up their lives a little bit before becoming a part of us?

4. How should we handle the situation of a gay male couple choosing to become a part of our congregation?

5. When we are sharing the gospel with someone, if they ask “do I have to give up\_\_\_\_\_ before I give my life to Christ,” what would be your response to that person be?
  
6. Do we truly believe our unsaved loved ones, friends, co-workers and neighbors are going to perish if we don't accept Jesus' invitation to become fishers of people?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Is the emphasis in this passage on the world going to hell, or on God's reaching out to rescue the world?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Why do you think Christians respond more verbally to a message on the sins of the world and what the lost are doing, than they do to God's call for us as Christians to be involved in rescue work?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Have you been taking opportunities to fish for people?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What do you think evangelism really is?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Using this formula, how could you share the gospel to someone. 1. God Loved. 2. God Gave. 3 We Believe. 4. We Receive.



## Life-Sharing Lesson 4 “ Why Care About People: Will We Go” Luke 10:1-17

1. If someone invited you to be on a championship team in a field that you enjoyed, why would you consider taking up the offer?
2. What kind of setbacks do championship teams on the way to the championship. The New York Giants this year were the super bowl champions. Yet at the end of the season, there record was 9 wins and 7 losses.

### **Luke 10:1-17**

Today's New International Version (TNIV)

### **Luke 10**

#### **Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two**

<sup>1</sup> After this the Lord appointed seventy-two<sup>[a]</sup> others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. <sup>2</sup> He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. <sup>3</sup> Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup> Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

<sup>5</sup> “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ <sup>6</sup> If the head of the house loves peace, your peace will rest on that house; if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for workers deserve their wages. Do not move around from house to house.

<sup>8</sup> “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ <sup>10</sup> But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.’ <sup>12</sup> I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

<sup>13</sup> “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented

long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>14</sup> But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. <sup>15</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. <sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>16</sup> “Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

<sup>17</sup> The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

3. What’s the value in Jesus sending out the disciples in groups of two’s?

4. Several times in Scripture Jesus says the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few? Why do you think this is the case?

5. How often do you pray, “Lord send out workers into the harvest field.” Why do you pray that often?

6. We have looked at two images for reaching people for Christ. The first has been going fishing and the second has been going in the harvest field. Which image works best for you?

7. Do you think the disciples were afraid when Jesus said he was sending them out like lambs among wolves? Just a few moments earlier, Jesus had said, “the harvest is plentiful.” Why is Jesus giving a mixed signal here?

8. What does it mean for us to tell people that the kingdom of God has come near to them?

9. What is to be our goal in witnessing to people, and why should we see witnessing as a passing of a baton?

10. What does it mean to say that evangelism is not an event, but rather a lifestyle.

11. Moving From Discussion To Action

Could You Do This With Another Person For This Easter Season

1. Knock On A Door & Wait With A Smile

2. Take A Couple Of Steps Back From The Door (So person answering does not feel crowded)

3. Hi there, We're from Glenville New Life Community Church/Calvary Presbyterian Church. Just wanted to let you that we're down the street. We're in the neighborhood to see if you or your family have any prayer requests for us to take back to the church? (Listen & Record)

4. Is there anything we could pray with you for now?

5. May we leave this free gift bag with you which may help you in the future?

6. Is there something you think our church could do or offer to be more helpful in the community?

7. If you're not attending a church, we want you to know that you are always welcome to attend our services at 8:30 or 11:15/or at 11. We have a special event taking place at the church on\_\_\_\_\_

You don't have to enter a house unless you are invited in. You never enter the house alone without your partner. You pray as you are walking up to the house. You pray again as you leave. Your results may astound you even as the disciples were amazed.