

Message by John Johnson
January 15-16, 2011
When Jesus Calls a Person
Matthew 4:18-25

Questions for Life Groups:

1. In this text, Jesus takes up the message of John the Baptist, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." This first call of Jesus is to respond to His offer for forgiveness. Have you responded to His first call on your life? If not, what is preventing you from doing that now?
2. These four fishermen began as seekers (John 1). At some point, however, we are compelled to move from seeking to following. Can you share the moment seek transitioned to follow for your life?
3. How do you personally know when you have heard the call of Jesus? What will you do next week to make sure you are listening and can respond when He calls you to follow Him in some immediate way?
4. Following Jesus often requires sacrifice. Read Matthew 8:22, 10:38 and 19:21. In these passages, what prevents the hearer from following Jesus? In your own life, can you think of something that you have not been willing to give up in order to follow Him and can you share that with your group? What have you "denied yourself" in order to follow Him? What have you gained?
5. Answering the call to follow Jesus may not necessarily result in becoming full time over-seas missionaries, although it might. Whether we are or not, if we have answered His first call, we are all missionaries; right here, at this time, in this place, we are ambassadors for Jesus. What specific acts "in Jesus' name" have you committed this past week that represent Jesus to those who exist in your corner of the world?