

**GROUP  
DISCUSSION  
GUIDE**

**Week 5**

# **FISHING**



# CONNECT

Take sometime to break the ice and choose one of the questions below.

- If you could shape shift into any animal, what would it be?
- Have you ever faced resistance because of your faith. If so, what was it like?
- Discipleship Check-In

# INTRODUCTION

Being a fisher and persecution go hand and hand. In today's passage, Jesus wants to prepare his disciples for the difficulties that lie ahead, but give them reasons not to fear even when sharing the gospel gets hard. While persecution may look different for those who follow Jesus today, we can still experience it in different measures and we, like the disciples, need Jesus to remind us of the reasons why we have nothing to be afraid of.

Take time to pray before you dive in. Invite the Spirit in and ask him to give wisdom and understanding about what Jesus is saying in this passage.

# OBSERVE

## **READ:**

Matthew 10:16-33

## **DISCUSS:**

- What are the characteristics of a wolf, sheep, serpent, and doves?
- Are there any repeated words in the passage? What is the author trying to communicate through the repetition of that word?

# INTERPRET

## DISCUSS

- What do you think Jesus means when he says, "I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves."?
- In verses 16 to 25 Jesus shares the type of persecution that is to come for those who follow him. Why do you think following Jesus and sharing his good news leads to persecution?
- What reasons does Jesus give for not being afraid of persecution? How do you think this was meant to encourage the disciples?

# APPLY

## DISCUSS

- The word fear is repeated four times in verses 26 to 33. Jesus knows that when persecution comes or the possibility of persecution, we will be prone to fear rather than courage. What are you afraid of when you think about sharing your faith?
- Jesus is trying to instill courage into his disciples by providing reasons for why that we don't need to be afraid of sharing the gospel and persecution. Which of the reasons the he says gives you courage to share the gospel boldly?

# PRAYER

Praise the Father who is the only one we have to fear because he is the only one who can destroy the body and soul. Praise Jesus that he set aside his fear of death and suffering for our sake so that we could be welcomed into his family. Praise the Spirit who gives us the courage to share the good news even when we don't know what to say. Pray that we would all be a people who don't fear persecution, but have the courage to share the good news.

## DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN

- Have you read your Bible and prayed consistently the past week?
- Who is one lost person you're praying would come to faith?



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