



BiG IDEA SMALL GROUP DiSCUSSiON GiDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. Do NOT feel like you have to use every question. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

9.05/06.09 // **Gone Fishing - What's on the Line?**

BiG iDEA: *To follow Jesus includes His call to fish for souls!*

// **Ice Breaker** _____

Option 1: Before you became a Christian, how did you feel when someone would share their faith with you? Did it matter who it was or how it was done?

Option 2: Do you like to fish? What's your best fishing story? Is it about catching "the big one" or about "the one that got away"?

// **Questions for Discussion** _____

1. Read 2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but everyone to come to repentance.

How important are others to God?

How important should others be to us? Why?

2. Read Hebrews 9:27

Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

After someone dies, where will they spend eternity?

How does the idea of everyone spending eternity somewhere make you feel?

3. Read John 1:41-45

⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon [Peter] and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴²And he brought him to Jesus. The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Andrew and Philip knew those who they shared Jesus with. Do you think this made those who heard their message more receptive?

How can this influence who we share Jesus with?

4. **When you go to a great restaurant, movie or sporting event, do you like to share it with others?**

Why do you think most of us have a harder time sharing our faith than sharing about a restaurant?

What emotions do you feel about sharing your faith, inviting others to church or accepting Jesus?

5. **Read Romans 10:14**

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

What are some ways that we preach to others without words and may not even realize it?

How should we treat others to better 'preach' without words?

6. **Southpoint's idea is to invite your family and friends to church where they will hear about Jesus. Does this make sharing about your faith easier?**

What are some ideas to make inviting others to Southpoint easier?

7. **Read 1 Corinthians 3: 6-7**

⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

In the terms of witnessing, what do you think is meant by one person planting a seed and another watering it?

What do you think is meant that only God actually makes things grow?

8. **God has made each of us unique and does not want us to try to be someone else.**

How do you think this can be applied to sharing our faith?

What are some problems with trying to share our faith by using someone else's formula?

// Application _____

Read and commit to memory Romans 10:14

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Write a letter to the person who influenced your becoming a Christian. Tell them how much you appreciated it and what it has meant to you. You may or may not send it.

// Prayer _____

Pray for names of those to invite to Southpoint.

Pray for Southpoint's vision of making it hard for anyone Downriver to go to hell.

