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| TOPIC | The Call to Fish | SPEAKER | Ps Low Kok Guan |
| THEME | 2023 Vision Series | DATE | 18 & 19 February 2023 |



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| **INTRODUCTION** |
| Jesus calls for all disciples to follow Him, and He will make us fishers of men (Matt 4:19). To reach out to the lost, evangelism and discipleship are both important, just as Jesus has modelled for us. Ps Kok Guan led the church to reflect on whether we are still following Jesus closely today and how we can boldly heed the call to fish. |
| |  | | --- | | **THE CALL TO FISH** |   We learn through the journey of Peter in John 21:15-25 that there are three things we need to do in order to become fishers of men:  **1) Feeding The Sheep**  In discipling others, there are often good and bad times which may sometimes lead some to be discouraged and give up. But when we see the results of our labour, it also encourages us in our journey as fishers of men.  Jesus is our role model for how to be a fisher of men. Jesus continued to feed His sheep and discipled them with love even when He was denied and betrayed (John 21:15-17).  While Jesus could have given up on Peter, He loved Peter and promised that He would restore him and make him a fisher of men. This in turn made Peter able to love others and be a fisher of men. We love because God first loved us. (1 John 4:19).  We should continue to engage and pray for those we disciple, feeding them with God’s truth and encouragement even when it is challenging. Even when they turn away or reject us, we can trust in God and continue to feed the sheep that He has given us.  **2) Following The Shepherd**  As we mature in Christ, we learn to deny ourselves and allow the Holy Spirit to dress us in our identity as God’s children. To be dressed by God is to show who we are, to be ready to go where He wants us to go and gear up to do what God wants us to do (John 21:18-19).  When Emperor Nero persecuted the Christians, Peter requested to be crucified upside down as he felt unworthy to die in the same manner as Jesus. That’s how Peter was dressed up by God and followed Jesus all the way to the cross to surrender his life.  When we choose to follow Jesus, we will attempt great things for God, and He will do great things through us in His way. Whoever wants to be great in the Kingdom of God must be a servant to others, just as Jesus was. Jesus has called us to be fishers of men and women as well. Now we are to follow Him.  **3) Fixing our eyes on Jesus**  In our journey to be fishers of men, we will get distracted by various things (John 21:20-23). Peter had been distracted by various things even when called by Jesus to follow Him.  Peter had once refused to draw near to Jesus after realising that Jesus is a holy man (Luke 5:8). Peter had also allowed the stormy sea to distract him when he tried to walk on water (Matt 14:30). In John 21:20-23, Peter’s eyes were focused on other Christians due to the ongoing rumours that were spreading although Jesus continually reminded Peter to follow Him.  What God wants to do through each of us will be different. Thus, there is no need to compare.  We should continue to encourage each other on our journey and use our strengths to complement rather than judge others. All these distractions can cause us to lose focus. Rather, we need to continually fix our eyes on Jesus who will then help us to deal with the distractions in our life.   |  | | --- | | **CONCLUSION** |   The book of John bears witness to all that Jesus has done, as did all the disciples who received the Holy Spirit, spreading the Gospel to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).  God kept his promise and it came to pass that they were all moulded and made by God into fishers of men.  As we continue to feed the sheep, follow the Shepherd, and fix our eyes on Jesus, let us live out our call to fish. |

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| |  | | --- | | 1. **Think about someone in your life who has played a big role in feeding and discipling you in your journey of faith. Share an example of what they have done and its impact on you.** | |  | | 1. What are the key distractions that are taking your attention away from Jesus today? Pray for one another for God’s help to deal with these distractions. | |  | | 1. Think of a person that God has placed in your heart to disciple or to evangelise. Discuss what is one thing that you can do next to encourage and guide this person. | |  | |