

Learning to Bait the Hook

John 4:1-15, 25-26

Core Practice Associated With: #4 – We encourage every attendee to become a member of a ministry team and promote that “every member a minister” concept. *1 Peter 4:10, Eph. 4:11-13*

Aim: The main focus of this message is to help Christians understand that they are called to make themselves available to the leading of Christ and to share the message of the Christ on a practical and understandable level to those in need of that message.

Four Steps of Baiting the Hook

Know What You Are Fishing For (v. 1-6)

Step #1 – Make Yourself Available

- This main point focuses our attention on making ourselves available to the leading of God in the area of allowing our heart, mind, and soul to be open to noticing those in need around us. (In need of hope and salvation)
- **Acts 8:26-31** – ²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” ³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. ³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

Go to Where the Fish Are (v. 7-9)

Step #2 – Initiate Contact

- This main point focuses our attention on purposely making contact with someone that God points in the direction of or places on our heart to initiate contact with. It is focusing on being attentive to the Spirit.
- **James 2:8** – If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right.

Choose the Right Bait (v. 10-15)

Step #3 – Communicate on the Same Level

- This main point focuses our attention on presenting a CLEAR Gospel message to those we come in contact with. The CLEAR message must be spoken on the same level and in terms that they can understand.
- **1 Corinthians 1:18** – For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Use the Right Bait (v. 13-15, 25-26)

Step #4 – Share the Message

- This main point focuses our attention on helping us learn how to develop a clear message to share with others in our own terms through testimony, scriptures, prayer, and examples of how God has worked in the lives of believers.
- **1 Corinthians 15:1-5** – Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

Memory Verse:

John 4:14 – “...Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”



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