

## “Left at once...”

### Monthly grocery box give-away details...

#### Our next grocery box food giveaway will happen Saturday, August 27.

Pick up time will be from 11am till NOON. Details are on our church website, [www.landisville.church](http://www.landisville.church) or you can call the office and talk with Candice to sign up... 717-898-8144.

### Inspiring Quote...

“We believers do need to be challenged to a life of committed discipleship, but that challenge needs to be based on the gospel, not on duty or guilt. Duty or guilt may motivate us for awhile, but only a sense of Christ's love for us will motivate us for a lifetime.” -Jerry Bridges, author.

### Proverbs 3:3 (NET)

“Do not let mercy and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.”

**Matthew 4:19, 20... Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed him.**



In each edition of this newsletter, we have been looking at a phrase or a word that

Jesus spoke regarding the new “calling” He was placing on His disciples in Matthew 4. Jesus was preparing to turn these ordinary tradesmen into missionaries and evangelists for God’s Kingdom. Jesus was planting “seeds” of purpose in their lives before He began to train and teach them to “go” into the world to make disciples. He was telling them that He would in fact change their habits, lifestyles, careers and direction, and give them a new purpose and destination.

In each of the gospel accounts of Jesus calling these men, who by the way were career fishermen, they responded immediately to His request to follow; dropping their nets and walking off with Jesus. I find it a bit shocking almost every time I read it... Did they say goodbye to their families? Did they submit their resignations to their bosses? Did they call their mother before leaving? Matthew’s account says they “left at once”, in the middle of the workday, in the midst of working. It always seems so abrupt to me and yet dedicated and committed on a level that I sometimes struggle with.

Religious historians and biblical scholars all believe that many of the original 12 disciples had encountered Jesus before they actually started following Him. Many were devout Jews who knew

the scriptures and the prophecies of a coming messiah, and they were looking for signs of these promises to be fulfilled. Several of them were disciples of John the Baptist and met Jesus out in the wilderness before their personal encounter with Him on the shoreline. Maybe they had time to think about this decision to “follow Jesus”, and maybe they were wanting more out of life than what fishing was providing for them. And yet, there doesn’t seem to be a lot of praying about it, processing it, weighing out the options or discussing it with family and friends for months. We may never know how long it took them to decide to follow Jesus or what the decision making process was like for each to them. We really don’t know what was truly motivating them to follow. What we do know is they left what they were doing and what was familiar and safe to them and began to follow Jesus. They never traveled too far from home and probably had regular “check-ins” with their families, but they did give up everything and made changes to their lives to follow.

### Reflection questions...

1. What does a committed follower of Jesus look like?
2. What needs to change in your life to be more committed to following Jesus?
3. What do you need to give up to follow Jesus?

### Please pray for...

- Praise God for His faithfulness to hear and answer our prayers.
- Those in our Landisville church family dealing with serious health issues... Steve Baker, Harold Groff, Bev Korman, Becky Lenz, Melvia Neideigh, Nancy Reitz, Lochlan Shiel
- Those in our Real Church family who need prayer... Chuck Frank, Esther Jenkins, Bob Weaver, Jane Weaver
- Peace and unity in our families, communities, churches and our country.
- Spiritual transformation and revitalization for our churches.
- Those who are wandering and need to find their way back to God.
- The persecuted church around the world. Please pray for the Christians in these countries... Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Ethiopia, Colombia, Algeria, China, India, Jordan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Lebanon, Central African Republic, Iraq

**A short powerful prayer...** “Lord, You are my pillar of strength and shield. You are also my Shepherd—the One who always guides me. Father, as I head out for the day today, be with me, and guide my thoughts and actions. With Your help, good and new things will happen in me and through me. Thank You for listening to me Lord, Amen.”

**What's Happening...**

**Sunday, July 24... Week 9 of the sermon series, Follow Me... the sermon will focus on the apostle Nathanael... the skeptical one.**

@ Landisville... 8:30am - worship. 9:30am - Sunday school. 10:30am - worship. Real Life Church will be joining us for worship for the entire morning.

**Sunday, July 31... Week 10 of the sermon series, Follow Me... the sermon will focus on Matthew 10:16-25. ONE WORSHIP SERVICE FOR EVERYONE @ 10:30am!** We will worship together at the Landisville Camp meeting tabernacle. All are welcome to worship with us. Bring an offering to share with Landisville, Real Life or the Camp Meeting. Brad Rhine will be leading worship and preaching. Pastor Tim will be on vacation with his family at the beach.

**Sunday, August 7... Week 11 of the sermon series, Follow Me... the sermon will focus on the apostle Matthew... the changed one. Colleen Gross, Director of Pastoral Family Health for the ERC, will be sharing God's word with us.**

@ Landisville... 8:30am - worship. 9:30am - Sunday school. 10:30am - worship.

@ Real Life... 10:30am - worship and teaching.

**Sunday, August 14... Week 12 of the sermon series, Follow Me... the sermon will focus on the apostle Thomas... the doubtful one.**

@ Landisville... 8:30am - worship. 9:30am - Sunday school. 10:30am - worship.

@ Real Life... 10:30am - worship and teaching.

**Books to read...**

In the fall, we are planning a book study around the book, Whisper - How to hear the voice of God by Mark Batterson. We have 5 paperback copies for sale for \$10. Please connect with Pastor Tim if you want a copy of the book. We will have more for sale in late August.

I am currently reading a wonderful book about the disciples entitled, The Eye of God: A Fisherman's Tale by Marilyn Huntman Giese. It is a mix of historical fact, biblical truth and literary fiction bringing to life the 12 disciples as seen through the eyes of Peter, and their challenge to be his followers in a volatile political and religiously zealous culture that was working against everything Jesus was trying to teach others. It is a fascinating look in the to the lives of the disciples. The author has a great grasp of the gospel accounts as well as historical information that will give you insight and new ideas to encourage you and challenge you. It is however a work of fiction, but still a great book to read.

Here is a link to purchase the book through Amazon... [Buy Book Here](#)

**Reading through the Gospel of John... August 2022**

- Aug 1 - John 12:27-36
- Aug 2 - John 12:37-43
- Aug 3 - John 12:44-50
- Aug 4 - John 13:1-11
- Aug 5 - John 13:12-20
- Aug 6 - John 13:21-30
- Aug 7 - Sabbath Rest**
- Aug 8 - John 13:31-38
- Aug 9 - John 14:1-11
- Aug 10 - John 14:12-21; discussion group @ 6:30pm.**
- Aug 11 - John 14:22-31
- Aug 12 - John 15:1-8
- Aug 13 - John 15:9-17
- Aug 14 - Sabbath Rest**
- Aug 15 - John 15:18-27
- Aug 16 - John 16:1-11
- Aug 17 - John 16:12-22; discussion group @ 6:30pm.**
- Aug 18 - John 16:23-33
- Aug 19 - John 17:1-8
- Aug 20 - John 17:9-19
- Aug 21 - Sabbath Rest**
- Aug 22 - John 17:20-26
- Aug 23 - John 18:1-14
- Aug 24 - John 18:15-27; discussion group @ 6:30pm. Last one for the summer!**
- Aug 25 - John 18:15-27
- Aug 26 - John 18:28-32
- Aug 27 - John 18:33-40
- Aug 28 - Sabbath Rest; worship and church picnic at the Camp Meeting, 10:30am!**
- Aug 29 - John 19:1-7
- Aug 30 - John 19:8-16
- Aug 31 - John 19:16-24
- September 1-4 - John 19:25-42
- September 5-7 - John 20
- September 8-11 - John 21

Join our discussion group on Wednesday nights @ 6:30pm (Aug. 10, 17, 24) at the Church of God of Landisville, 171 Church St. We will meet outside in the back yard, weather permitting. In case of rain or excessive heat, we will meet in the gym. Bring a lawn chair, your Bible and a journal.

**God loves you and we love you too,**  
*Pastor Tim and the ministry staff*