

# LIFEgroups

## Open

*Go around and let everyone answer...*

What is one thing you want to observe but in which would never want to participate.

## DIG

What is the difference in being an observer and being a participant?

How does moving from the role of observer to participant in something change your relationship to that thing?

**Read: Matthew 4.18-22**

*This passage describes Jesus' encounter with the first disciples he called to follow Him and their immediate response to His call.*

What does the way these fishermen responded tell you about their decision to join Jesus and follow him?

What was the cost of this decision?

**Read: Matthew 4.23-25**

*As Jesus preached and healed the sick, people came to see Him and many chose to follow Him.*

What do you think provoked the people in this passage to move beyond observers of the Kingdom of Heaven and become participants?

What is the difference in being an observer of the Kingdom of Heaven and full part of it?

Why do some people have a hard time taking the next steps in fully following Jesus?

## APPLY

*Choosing to follow Jesus is a daily decision to keep taking steps where He leads.*

What "next steps" have you been challenged or hesitant to take in following Jesus's lead?

*Close with a time of prayer.*

## Leader Notes

### About This Guide

This week's guide comes the current lesson in a series from the Gospel of Matthew. This series focuses on Matthew's message of establishing that Jesus is King over all.

### Big Idea

As we work through the Gospel of Matthew we will see exactly what the Kingdom of God looks like, but the only way for us to embrace it is to follow Jesus.

### Reaching Out

Our LIFE Groups are a great place to pour out the love we share into the lives of others. We can't keep this love and community to ourselves. Who do you know that might benefit from being part of your group? Share those names, pray for them, and ask God to give you the courage to talk to them about visiting your group.

### Prayer

Engage every person the group in the prayer time. Encourage every person to provide prayer requests, or if appropriate, for every person in the group to pray.