



### The Foothills Flyer: *Keeping the Church on Mission*

## Church Plant Minute: Get in the Boat

Value: **Global Missions**

by Jesse Harden

In Luke 5:1-11, Jesus is standing on the shore of the lake of Gennesaret. Many, many people have crowded around him. So many people press in to hear him, that he asks Peter, who is mending his nets after a night of fruitless fishing, to put his boat out into the shallow water so that He can sit and teach from it. After Jesus teaches from the boat, he turns to Peter and tells him to row out into deeper waters, cast his net and bring in fish. Peter, full of disappointment, tells Jesus that he had fished all night and not cast a single fish. Jesus urges him to cast his net. When Peter yields to Jesus' call, he finds his net bursting to the seams with fish to the point where the boat begins to sink and the nets begin to tear due to the abundance of fish caught in the net. This is a miracle. This is a wonder and a sign of the great abundance, power and generosity of Jesus' Kingdom.



Up until a few months ago, I had never noticed a significant part of the text. Jesus is in the boat. The text does not give any indication that he leaves the boat. He is in the boat as he teaches. He is in the boat as he tells Peter to row to deeper waters and cast his net. He is in the boat as the tremendous catch comes in. The text says, when the nets filled up, they struggled to bring in the net and they called for help. Jesus is in the boat with Peter, fishing alongside of him.

Can you see Jesus' muscles tense and strain as he pulls with all his might alongside Peter, laughing as he strains to pull a net unraveling under the immense weight of fish? Can you sense Jesus' joy as he works alongside Peter, thinking to himself, "See Peter! This is what I'm talking about! This is what I have in store for those who hear and respond to my call!"

Jesus is in the boat. Peter, and those who had come to help, after finally pulling in the net, breathing and sweating hard with exhaustion, turn to Jesus, and, the text says, "are filled with astonishment." Peter falls before Jesus' feet and says, "depart from me, I am a sinful man!" Jesus response is wonderful. It is powerful. It is comforting. Jesus turns to them and says, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." What is the disciples' response? Verse 11 says, "And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him."

The Great Commission in Matthew 28 says, "Go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Jesus is in the boat. Jesus is the fisher of men. His call is a call to join him on his mission. His joy is to watch us take a step of obedience and cast our net into deeper waters. His delight is for us to work alongside of him, seeing us marvel at what the Father has done, in awe at the miraculous work of dead men and women coming alive and entering the joy, peace and healing of the Kingdom of God.

We are all called to get into the boat. Church planting, is how we, as disciples of Jesus, get into the boat, join Jesus, and become fishers of men and women in desperate need of being caught up in the net of God's grace, mercy and love. There is fear, anxiety and discomfort at this prospect. But, he is in the boat. He is with us, even to the end of the age. He will never leave us or forsake us. He has said, "do not be afraid."

May God bring in those who are his. May many in the International District and all around Albuquerque, New Mexico, the United States, and the nations, be caught in his love. And, may we, as disciples of Jesus, fearlessly follow him, get in the boat and cast our net, experiencing the joy that comes with the catch.

# Meals Needed for ISI Bible Study

As a church we are passionate about missions. We send out our own around the world. We work to support their work and their families. We are even helping to offer “perspectives” in the hopes that God will reach down and “wreck” some lives for His mission and kingdom. All these are good but there is another way in which with minimal effort you can participate in reaching the world for Christ. And that way is to participate with International Students. Right now, ISI facilitated at UNM by the Lasche family is looking for a few good meals to feed the students who come to their bible studies. Please consider how you can help this semester by offering hospitality to those who have come to Albuquerque from the corners of the Earth.

We are once again looking for people to provide a meal for the Bible study. Our big need is on Sundays for 40 people at 12:30 near UNM. We also need meals on Thursday evenings at 5:30 for 10 people. I have included the entire instructions for the Sunday meals below. The Thursday meals are generally the same, except for fewer people. At this time, almost every week is still available.

## Meal Instructions:

1. **HOT & TASTY** - Please plan a hot, tasty meal with some side dishes and dessert. These meals are more than just getting people fed. They are a draw to the relationship building part of the Bible study. We want to draw students to this time so they can build relationships through taking a meal together and the talking and sharing that accompanies eating together. To that end, we want the meals to be something students of many cultures look forward to. When the meals aren't appetizing, students start skipping this pre-Bible study fellowship time. If you're doing something like a build your own taco salad, having some (rather than all) of the toppings hot such as meat or beans is fine.
2. **A LOT OF FOOD** - Plan on food for 40. This is a LARGE crowd. A half size steamer tray serves 10-12. (half size steamer tray is about 12 X 10 X 2 inches deep). Rice is an easy and cheap filler and many cultures eat rice at every meal. Even if rice doesn't go with your “theme” it can still be included.
3. **DIETARY RESTRICTIONS** - Chicken and fish are safe for most cultures except for the true vegetarians. We have several vegetarians from various backgrounds that attend. If you are serving a main dish that has meat, please provide a vegetarian main dish also. When planning your meal, please be sensitive to the strong feelings other religions have about pork and/or beef. Also remember that in many cultures, vegetarian means no eggs.
4. **SUPPLIES** - Paper Goods and water will be provided.
5. **FULLY EQUIPPED KITCHEN** (more or less) - There is a kitchen that can be used for reheating & washing items.
6. **TIME SCHEDULE** - Please be there by 12:15 with lunch ready to go at 12:30. The lunch will end by 1:15 with the Bible study starting at that time. You may stay for the study if you would like or you may leave.
7. **LOCATION** - BSU-Christian Challenge Building. Located at 401 University Blvd between Central and Lomas at the intersection of Martin Luther King (NW corner). Park and enter in the back.
8. **PREVIOUS MEALS** from Last Semester:
  - Week 1- Chicken or Lentils & Rice with sides & dessert
  - Week 2- Fish Nachos, rice, corn & beans, brownies
  - Week 3 – No Meeting
  - Week 4- Pasta (Lasagna & Spaghetti) salad, calabacitos, bread, brownies, cheesecake.
  - Week 5- Chili with rice
  - Week 6 - Taco Salad
  - Week 7- Enchiladas, beans, rice, chips, cookies
  - Week 8 - Vegetable Curry, Chicken Shwarma, Rice, sides & dessert
  - Week 9- Lasagna, salad, bread, dessert
  - Week 10 – Taco Salad with beans & rice, cookies for dessert

Other Meals: Baked Potato bar, soup & Salad, Quesadillas, Chili, Sloppy Joes with Lentils or Turkey

Thank you again for helping to spread the good news of salvation through Jesus. You are making a difference in the world!

ISIABQ@isionline.org

# Eight Practical Ways to Simplify Life

Value: Jesus Christ, the Head, Intentional Families, Holistic Discipleship

by Pastor Joe Eastman

Lately, as a church we have been talking a lot about simplifying our lives and in reality the point of simplifying our lives is twofold. One, it is to make margin to spend time with Jesus and have margin to do more with the community of God. Secondly, it is a quality of life issue. Many times the things which complicate our lives may be good, but they are not what is best. The best things in life are usually contained in our relationships. So, simplifying your life makes space and time for those relationships to grow. In that line of thought I would like to offer you a list of eight practical ways to simplify life.

1) Turn off the television earlier- this one is a big deal. The average family spends 5 hours a day watching television. Which is a lot of time doing something that really has no value beyond mere entertainment. While many of you are surely spending less time than that each day, probably you are spending a significant amount of time. Therefore, this can be a good place to start. By reducing this habit and filling it with family time, prayer time, small group time, or even alone time, you will see a dramatic increase in the peace in your household and life.

2) Get up earlier- If you are trying to find time to spend devotionally, for many of us early morning seems the most logical. Usually, if you can get up before anyone else you can find a very undistracted time to spend with God. However, this time can often be forfeited to late night television or reading.

3) Go to bed earlier- This one is really important way especially if you are looking at simplifying for number 2. Many times we have good intentions of getting up earlier but without a plan to go to bed earlier it often fails. Going to bed earlier is a great way to simplify your life, make yourself healthier, and give you more energy during the day. Many of us today are chronically sleep deprived, and it comes out in fatigue, crankiness and may even effect our health. Going to bed earlier will help your body to feel rested so you are more likely to get up earlier, and will feel better throughout the day.

4) Eat meals as a family- eating meals together as a family, (if you don't) is a great way to simplify, and a great way to connect with your family. Studies show that when a family eats regularly together it reaps all sorts of benefits. From decreased incidences of delinquency, alcohol and drug abuse, teen pregnancy, depression, and obesity. Additionally, spending time eating together will give your family some simplified down time to connect and get to know each other.

5) Plan time into your regular schedule- Many people are so crammed with activities that they feel that they have no time to spend with God or to foster the relationships in their life. Sometimes, it can be helpful for them to actually plan this time as they would any other time. The key is to plan it just like any other meeting or event and to discipline themselves to keep to it as they would any other important event.

6) Plan a no technology time- Many times we are so connected to technology we have a hard time unplugging from it. This can have a negative impact on our lives and relationships because it is very hard to listen to that still small voice and to connect with those around us if we are "phubbing" them. Try putting all phones in a basket away from the table or away from where the family is spending time. Have a "No Phone Policy" during meal times or other family gathering times.

7) Utilize small group- Here at foothills the primary pastoral ministry is accomplished through small groups. Small groups are the spiritual Emergency rooms of our church. Don't be afraid to ask for prayer, accountability and help from those in your group. If you are not in a group talk to me about finding a group to join. (joe@thefoothills.us)

8) Find an accountability partner- One of the best ways to re enforce good habits is to share your responsibility with someone. For example, if you decide that you want to get up earlier ask a friend who is up to call you every morning to remind you to get up and pray. Also, you will find that being an accountability partner for someone else will help you by giving you responsibility to be up as well.

The Foothills Flyer is a monthly newsletter under the oversight of Pastor Joe Eastman and designed by Rachel Gard that is aimed at Keeping the Church on Mission and committed to our 9 Core Values.

**OUR MISSION:** Foothills Fellowship exists to be a worshipping community of God's people whose lives are shaped by the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and who participate in the mission of God's kingdom by proclaiming the good news locally, nationally and globally.

**OUR CORE VALUES:** 1) Jesus Christ, the Head 2) Biblical Leadership 3) Everyone A Minister 4) Ancient/Future Worship 5) Hospitality Without Exception 6) Unity in Community 7) Intentional Families 8) Global Missions 9) Holistic Discipleship