

Men's Newsletter

Summer 2021

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. – Gal 5:13



Men's Community Groups

The groups below are open to all men looking for devotion, prayer, and fellowship. To register, visit laurelridgechurch.org/community-groups, click the **Sign Up** button and fill in the form, or contact the group leaders directly.

Tuesday Evenings

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Room 301 at church or online via Zoom

Host: Jeff Alford
(925) 550-4344
jeffro7172@gmail.com



Thursday Mornings

Time: 6:30 AM

Place: Room 301 at church or online via YouVersion app

Host: Dan Mathisen
(209) 612-5028
mathisen.dan@gmail.com

We Fish for Him

by Dan Mathisen

Jesus told Simon and Andrew in Matthew 4:19, "Come and I will make you fishers of men." The same principles and techniques that catch fish apply to the preaching of the gospel and drawing men to Jesus today.

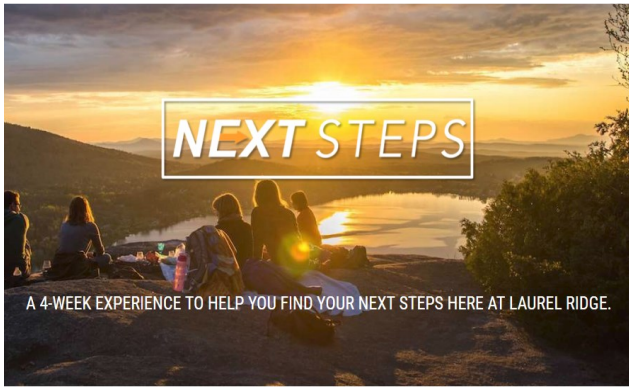


Success in catching fish means getting our equipment and bait ready first. In my boat you can always find a rod ready with every kind of bait. I have a light finesse rig in case bass wouldn't bite. I have a jig rod. I have a spinner bait rigged. I keep a rattletrap rigged up. And I keep a top-water rig ready. I stay ready so that rather than spend time tying on new baits, I can fish.

A daily quiet time of prayer and study is the essential planning we need to prepare to become fishers of men. I also stay in the Word by listening to Christian music, often searching the Bible for words I hear.

Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way

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Next Steps is BACK!

The Next Steps experience has resumed this June after a long hiatus. We believe that following Jesus is a journey. God has an incredible purpose for your life and Next Steps is designed to help you connect with that purpose.

The Next Steps experience happens on the first four Sundays of each month in Room 301 at 8:45 A.M. In this four-part series, you will meet new people in a relaxed environment, discuss relevant issues, and compete for some cool prizes. You will receive a backpack and a different item each week that will reinforce the training we're giving you to follow Jesus.

This class is also for you if you would like to take your Next Step in baptism or church membership.

If you are ready to take your Next Steps in following Jesus, sign up at laurelridgechurch.org/next-steps. ✝

The Chosen

A TV series titled *The Chosen* offers a vivid and fascinating look into the life of Jesus and the apostles as recorded in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The slickly produced series creates fictional backgrounds to people and events recorded in the gospels. Few, if any, of the subplots and conversations are likely to have happened exactly as shown but they bring the characters, events and scripture dynamically to life without altering the true message of the

gospels. The result is a powerful spiritual and emotional impact that shows Jesus, the twelve, the Jewish people, the Pharisees, and even the Roman soldiers in a new light.

The Chosen episodes for seasons one and two are available on YouTube at

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+chosen. ✝



Join the Prayer Team

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” (James 5:16) Prayer is the most powerful and effective tool God has given us for accomplishing His purposes in our lives and in the lives of everyone on earth. The Apostle Paul urged the Thessalonians—and by inference all of us—to “pray without ceasing.” Jesus, God’s own Son, prayed often each day.

Prayer is where we learn to talk to God, understand him, connect with him, receive his strengthening and transformational power, and learn to become more like him. Prayer refocuses us on God instead of ourselves. Praying for others can give them courage, influence their decisions, and change their outcomes.

Join other prayer warriors at Laurel Ridge Church in room 301 each Thursday from 6-7 PM. Pray for our nation, our political leaders, first responders, parents, teachers, students, and others during these troubling times. ✝

Website Roundup

Never in history has so much information about God, Jesus, and the Bible been available to so many people. With all this good stuff, we should all know the Bible like J. Vernon McGee. Here's just a few of the most popular Christian websites:

Biblia.com Scrollable online study Bible. Includes versions in numerous languages, including Arabic, Greek, Russian, Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Latin, along with popular English-language versions like the NIV.



BibleGateway.com Online study Bible.

BlueLetterBible.org Online study Bible.

[Christian Broadcasting Network](http://ChristianBroadcastingNetwork.com) Online Christian magazine with sections on news, Christian living, spiritual life, devotions, ministries, healthy living, music, videos, and more.

[Got Questions?](http://GotQuestions.com) A "Q &A" website with answers to over 600,000 questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, and theology.

InTouch.org The online site of InTouch Ministries, founded and headed by Dr. Charles Stanley. The site provides access to videos of Dr. Stanley's sermons, a daily devotional, inspirational messages, and more.

RightNowMedia.org Library of video resources for individuals and small groups.

[Thru the Bible](http://ThruTheBible.com) The devotions, global outreach, and five-year radio program Bible studies of J. Vernon McGee. ✝

Serve at the River



Sunday, June 27, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at the corner of A and 6th Streets in Antioch. Also on July 25, August 23, and September 26 (the fourth Sunday of each month).

Join with other believers in providing a meal and sharing God's love with the homeless and other people in need.

Donations of food, soft drinks and other items, and volunteers to help set up, serve and share are welcome. Contact Bob Andrade at randradeteam@gmail.com for more information or to sign up.



Who in the Bible entertained angels without knowing it? Answer below.

Abraham (Gen 18), Gideon (Judges 6:11), and Manoah (Judges 13).

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We Fish for Him

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or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. The Word puts us together and shapes us for the tasks God has for us. A chapter of Proverbs daily helps as it's full of wisdom and you can go through it over and over. It will open new stuff in your heart if you let it.



The Holy Spirit brings into our heart the attitudes we need. He provides us with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. If we have the Word and the Holy Spirit, we are ready to go out and to catch some "fish."

The next step is to go where the fish are. A fish-finder system helps you find fish in the water. To find someone to share the gospel with, God has provided us with the Holy Spirit. Following it will always lead us to someone who needs Jesus.

If you want to catch fish, you'd better be on the water, and if you don't cast your line into the water, you're just sitting in the boat and enjoying the ride. Same is true when fishing for men. You need to go where they are and share that Jesus died to redeem us and give us eternal life. His grace, His love wins!

Finally, attitude is key. We expect to catch fish on the water. The same is true when sharing the gospel. Expect to catch souls. Fishing for a fish can get you a meal. Fishing for men has eternal consequences.

Be a fisher of men! <(((><



Join Our Men's Group

by Dan Mathisen

A great way to prepare to serve God is to fellowship and study with like minded men. Here at Laurel Ridge a couple years back Matt Onstott started a men's group that meets on Thursday mornings. Then the pandemic hit and the in-person portion of the study went away and we were just using the YouVersion Bible app to meet online instead.

Matt had the opportunity to move with his company to Eastern Washington and here we are. Matt is much of the reason I chose Laurel Ridge as we met the first time at his store. I saw a man doing a job yet that heart for God could be seen in the way he carried himself. A couple years later we ran into each other at Laurel Ridge Church and Matt and I developed a friendship.

Getting the news that he was moving away, I had to step up and continue this group to strengthen men of God through study and fellowship. The Thursday men's study is now meeting again in person in room 301 at 6:30 A.M. If you can't be there you can still join us through the YouVersion app. For more information, call me at 209-612-5028 or email me at Mathisen.dan@gmail.com. <(((><