



UNCOMFORTABLE

What's on the Line

#npuncomfortable

Week 4

4 of 4

August 25, 2019

Bottom Line: The pathway to salvation and eternal life is not intuitive. It must be explained.

Icebreaker: Do you like seafood? What's your favorite if you do? Have you ever been fishing? Who is the most avid fisherman you know? What's the biggest body of water you have ever put your foot in?

Key Verse: *Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."* Mark 1:17 NKJV

We have been learning that God calls us out of our comfort zone to follow Him in several different ways. He also calls us to repent, as He did the first disciples. The word repent means to change your mind about how you think about why you are here, about what you are going through, and who really is in the seat of authority in your life. After the call to repent, He issued the calling to become fishers of men. They left the same two things we must leave: how we take care of ourselves (their fishing boat), and your most significant relationship (their father). This was and will always be uncomfortable.

So much of our comfort is dysfunctional. We want comfort in all our relationships, and sometimes it is dysfunctional because we don't understand the primary role of Christ in our lives. We come to church for comfort and leave if we get uncomfortable. We want Christ to speak to us in ways that just make us feel better about ourselves every day. But Jesus' primary function was not to comfort us, but to confront the systems that kept people in bondage. We associate the devil's place in our lives with confrontation and conflict. But sometimes it is the devil who is giving us comfort and God who is putting us in conflict to pull us out of our comfort zone.

God doesn't call us beyond our competency, but beyond our comfort zone. Fear and our desire for predictability will keep us in our comfort zone unless something bigger calls us out. Jesus calls us, as He did them, to be fishers of men, to live so cleanly that we prompt questions. This is when we get to communicate Jesus. The pathway to salvation and eternal life is not intuitive. It must be explained. How will people in your world know unless you find a way to leave your comfort zone and tell them? You are uniquely positioned to reach somebody.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

Many of us associate Christ primarily with comfort, but Christ came to confront the things that hold us back and keep us in bondage. Reflect and discuss.

Jesus says, "Follow me, and I will show you as you go." When have you felt that challenge? What has been your response?

"The greatest enemy of faith is not fear; it is familiarity." How so?

When Jesus calls us, He doesn't say He wants to make us more and better than what we already are. He wants to make us something we are not; He wants to teach us to do what He does and make us fishers of men. Does that excite you? Scare you? Confuse you?

Are you conscious of Jesus calling you in that way? How have you responded?

LOOK IT OVER >>>

Why fish? Why do we need to communicate about Jesus? Why do you think we typically feel awkward communicating about Jesus?

Think about this statement: "The pathway to salvation and eternal life is not intuitive. It must be explained." Agree or disagree? Why?

Why do you think the idea of a Christian sharing his or her faith makes a lot of people in our culture uncomfortable? What do we Christians fear about it?

When we share Jesus, when we call people to repent, we are calling them to change their mind and thinking. How has Christ changed your way of thinking?

Who do you think you might be uniquely positioned to reach?

What about your life might cause people to ask for a "reason for your hope"?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

1. Consciously raise your awareness of your comfort-seeking tendencies.
2. Ask Jesus to help you fully follow Him as a fisher of men.
3. Intentionally live your life in a way that inspires questions about the hope you have. Get prepared!

EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: The pathway to salvation and eternal life is not intuitive. It must be explained.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: 1 Peter 3:15

Tuesday: Romans 10:9

Wednesday: Luke 12:11-12

Thursday: Acts 20:24

Friday: 1 Corinthians 3:6-9

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)