

NEXT STEP
The Power of Purpose
Mark 1:14-20

Questions: Why is EHCC here? What is our **purpose** for existing?

- A. Our **Example** For Understanding Purpose: Jesus and the Disciples
1. Jesus calls the disciples to the experience of **following** him.
“Come, follow me,” Jesus said...” Mark 1:17a
 2. Jesus promises the disciples the experiencing of **impacting** others for him.
“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, ‘and I will make you fishers of men’” Mark 1:17
 3. The disciples respond by taking a **next step**.
“At once they left their nets and followed him.” Mark 1:18
 - The disciples were only able to follow Jesus by taking a next step, followed by **another** next step, followed by **another** next step, etc.
- B. Our Purpose: EHCC exists to help people take their **next step** towards Jesus.
1. Our task is simple: We **help people** (including ourselves) with their next step.
 2. We help people to take next steps until they get to the point of **accepting** Jesus as **Savior**.
 3. We help people make a commitment to **continue** taking next steps beyond accepting Jesus as they become **life-long** followers of Christ.
- C. Embracing Our Purpose: What EHCC’s purpose means for **you**.
1. Commit to taking your **own** next step(s) towards Jesus.
 - Our job as a church is to **help you** take that next step
 - Realize that you will only grow as you take **responsibility** for taking the next step.
 - Our goal is to have a church filled with people who are passionately committed to an **entire life** of next steps.
 2. Give yourself **away** by helping others take **their** next step towards Jesus.
 - Invest yourself in **practical service** that helps people take next steps.
 - Understand that your **prayer** and financial **support** of EHCC allows us to help people take their next step towards Jesus.
 - Our goal is to have a church filled with people who are passionately committed to helping others take their next step towards Jesus.

The Bottom Line: Our only purpose for being here is this: We exist to help people take their next step towards Jesus.

The Ride Home Questions: Where in your life is God calling you to take a next step?
Where is he calling you to help someone else take a next step?

EHCC'S PURPOSE AND PRIORITIES

PURPOSE: EHCC exists to help people take their next step towards Jesus.

PRIORITIES: As we help people take their next step, we will prayerfully pursue these 7 priorities:

1. We will be a place of grace.
2. We will challenge people to take the step of accepting Jesus as their Savior.
3. We will help people become more like Jesus, one step at a time.
4. We will provide vibrant, relevant worship.
5. We will minister to people at the point of their need.
6. We will serve the overlooked and ignored.
7. We will be a church of small churches within the larger church.

Study Questions:

1. Why is it important to understand your purpose as a person? Why is it important for us to understand our purpose as a church?
2. Read the encounter of Jesus with the first 4 disciples in Mark 1:14-20.
 - How does it help reveal the purpose of their lives?
 - How does the concept of taking a “next step” capture what they had to do in response to Jesus’ call?
 - Where did those next steps lead them?
3. How does the idea of taking a “next step” help capture our purpose and job as a church? Can you think of some examples of how this works in the life of the church?
4. Look at C1 from the outline and think about next steps in your own life.
 - What is EHCC’s responsibility in helping you take these next steps?
 - What is your responsibility in that?
 - Where is God calling you to take a next step in your walk with Jesus?
5. Look at C2 from the outline and think about helping others take their next step towards Jesus.
 - Where are you trying to help others take a first step?
 - How does it impact you when you see others take a next step?
6. What is your most important take-away from this message?

