



Fishing Net Prayer

LiFE

Life Fully experienced

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Women are not excluded when references are being made to men and vice versa.

For more information see: www.life-seminar.world

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Introduction



The Fishing Net Prayer – a Tool for Evangelistic Initiatives

The fishing net prayer is a tool helping us to prepare collective evangelistic initiatives with a purpose. Generally speaking we know the significance of tools. None of us would want to drive a nail with our bare hands. We would only hurt our fist and would never succeed in driving the nail into the wall. It is much easier with the help of a hammer. Countless tools and machines help us to do our work in the kitchen and at home: knife, mixer, oven, vacuum cleaner etc. We cannot imagine how our daily life would look like if we did not have these tools, machines and aides.

The fishing net prayer has shown to be an outstanding tool with regard to evangelistic activities. Churches, for instance, that do prepare their LiFe Seminars with a dedicated fishing net prayer have more registrations to the workshop than if it is lacking. It happened that a church that had to organize two LiFe Seminars, because they got so many registrations due to the fishing net prayer.

The fishing net prayer is a tool for our work in the spiritual dimension. As we cannot see the spiritual realm with our natural eyes it is a bit more difficult to understand a tool in this area and to use it with a focus. This is the reason why some explanations will be given to help us understand the nature of the fishing net prayer. In the second part, concrete steps will be given for implementation of the fishing net prayer.

Understanding the Fishing Net Prayer



The Urgency of Evangelistic Initiatives

Evangelism is the first and most important task of the Church of Jesus Christ! God wants that everyone is being saved and comes to the knowledge of truth. (1 Tim. 2:4). The Bible clearly says that people are eternally lost if they do not have faith in and a commitment to Jesus. This aspect of the biblical message is almost unbearable because it questions a „normal“ lifestyle. A committed Christian “first seeks the Kingdom of God” and that is why evangelism has the highest priority in his or her life. Jesus and Paul have lived for the Kingdom of God and consequently have renounced having a family and enjoying a comfortable life. The parable of the fourfold field (Mark 4:1-20) is important for the way we manage our lives. God wants to give us thirty-, sixty- and hundredfold fruit. But we need to pay attention so that our heart remains a fruitful soil for God’s word and is not overgrown with the worries of daily life. Otherwise we resemble the field where the seed has been suffocated by thorns and thistles. It cannot be that “normal life” dampens our zeal for the salvation of people and the growth of God’s Kingdom so much that the priority of evangelistic action gets lost.

A look at the history of revival movements show that Christian churches lose their attraction, their credibility and in the end also their members if they do not allow to be set afire by God’s glowing hart for salvation and attribute much weight to evangelism! In the past evangelistic campaigns usually lasted two weeks or longer. The evangelist illustrated during the first time of the evangelistic campaign the urgency of the task. Christians newly realized that evangelism is all about saving people from eternal ruin. This “revival” of the believers motivated them to invite their fellow men and women to the meetings where salvation was preached.

Smaller evangelistic initiatives must be inspired by the same urgency like the large public meetings. Consequently, it is important that the



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preacher focuses on this topic in the Sunday sermon and prepares the congregation for the coming evangelistic action. The commonly conducted fishing net prayer shows the congregation the high priority evangelism has.

The Unpredictability of Evangelistic Initiatives

Of course, we cannot force God or people with our prayers. God always remains sovereign and human beings always retain their free will. Because people can simply say “no”, our evangelistic efforts do sometimes look helpless. We may make big efforts to invite a person. We may have good and deep conversations and are convinced, “This person will attend the meeting and make a decision for Jesus.” But nothing happens! We are like „callers in the wilderness.” Another church member coincidentally strikes up a conversation and seemingly without an effort that person comes to the LiFe Seminar, finds faith and becomes a joyful and active member in a small group and in our congregation!

It seems as if God sometimes redirects the “energy of our prayers” in a different direction. Sometimes our prayers are being answered. On other occasions God seemingly does nothing. Sometimes extraordinary things happen and we do not know why!

We commit ourselves with all our strength in the fishing net prayer because we hope with the desire that people will get saved. We leave it to the Lord of the harvest where and how breakthroughs in His harvest become visible. As a church we are one team. We do not want to divide up between “heroes” and “losers”! Together we want to engage in the battle! We rejoice over victories and grieve with everyone, who for incomprehensive reasons has to accept apparent defeat.



This unpredictability reminds us of the unpredictability of fish. They swim where they want and escape our attempts to catch them. But when the net is large enough, we can also catch those fish we otherwise would never reach!

The Biblical Image of the Body

It is certainly no coincidence that Jesus chose to call professional fishermen of the Sea of Galilee to be his first disciples. He spoke to Peter: *"Don't be afraid, from now on you will fish for people."* (Luke 5:10). We know fishermen who wait patiently with rod and hook until a fish bites. Some of these fishermen are real heroes and show their sizable catch with pride. This type of fishing can be compared with "personal evangelism". Here too there are heroes that find time and again receptive people who they can lead to Jesus. Many members of the church have tried this but were not so successful. This experience can be painful and rob the desire for evangelism.

How can we overcome such disappointments and avoid them in the future? We understand evangelism with the fishing net prayer as a "team sport". The Lord would like to make everyone in the church to be "fishers of people". In order to describe the church Paul uses the image of the body. Very different parts constitute the body. Every part has its significance. Not everyone is a gifted goal scorer! It is sufficient if we have one or two in a soccer team. But during a soccer match strikers and defense are important, not just the goalie and the goal scorer. Victory in the end is a victory for the team. We cannot leave evangelism in the church to the "heroes". We want to be fisher of people as a whole church and grow into this high calling year by year! If we want to be fisher of people together it will be the Lord himself who will strengthen our efforts and teach us how we are to do it. It is important for the fishing net prayer that if only possible all church members commit in prayer for the coming LiFe Seminar. Although we do not have the same talents and gifts, we all can and



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should pray for God's blessings, His work and the salvation of lost people!

Biblical Promises on Prayer

The Bible is full of promises in relation to prayer. We especially want to focus on two encouraging verses.

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."
(James 5:16b)

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven." (Matthew 18:19)

We see here that both, the prayer of an individual person as well as prayers of a small group of two people or more have great power. With the fishing net prayer we focus the power of prayer to one point. We can best compare this to a magnifying glass. When the light of the sun is caught through a magnifying glass and focused on a bundle of dry grass, then the heat is so big that the grass starts to burn. The same principle is being applied in much larger dimensions if hundreds of mirrors are directed to one focus. In that way a solar power station can produce an immense amount of energy. We do the same thing with the fishing net prayer with regard to the invisible dimension of the spiritual realm. Together we focus the power of prayer on the LiFe Seminar in preparation.

The Net: our Contact to Seeking People

As Christians we are in various relationships with people who do not belong to our church. They are members of our family, neighbors, friends, people at the work place etc. In spontaneous conversation we realize that there are people who are open for the Gospel. But as we are often busy we miss the opportunity to make time available for seeking people.

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A clearly defined evangelistic action in our church allows us to change priorities. For every person in whom we have noticed openness for the Gospel we now consciously want to make time available and invite them! We make a decision in our hearts and want to become a mentor for these seeking persons. Doing this, we keep in mind, that it is a great help for a seeking person to get to know several Christians. Therefore it is an important step that we acquaint them with other Christians during appropriate events. In that way they get a larger impression of our relationship with God. The Holy Spirit can touch their hearts more deeply and in a different way.

Applying the Fishing Net Prayer



Winning the Whole Church!

As far as possible, we would like to gain the whole church for the coming evangelistic action. Of course, not all church members will engage as strongly in the way we would wish. It is important that we show consideration and yet encourage all to support the activity within the range of their possibilities. Therefore, one should strive to have everyone backing the effort in his or her heart. Even if someone has absolutely no time, he or she can commit to prayer. One may ask, “Why is this important?” The reason is that in order to have a successful LiFe Seminar every church member should appreciate and carry its vision, even if not everyone has time and not everyone can be present. This will strengthen those members who are at the battlefield. If we are able to gain most of the congregation for prayer then the fishing net prayer reaches full capacity. Then the Holy Spirit can and will use relationships and the circumstances to save people – even at the last minute. The size of a fishing net and its tensile strength make it possible to catch many and also big fish! Likewise, as a church and with the participation of all we can throw a net that is as big as possible. The strength of our relationships produces the tensile strength so that we can encourage and support each other as we invite and care for guests.

The Beginning of the Fishing Net Prayer: the Prayer Card

At this point it is important that both, the invitation flyers for the LiFe Seminar as well as the prayer cards for the fishing net prayer are ready!

We begin a fishing net prayer on the level of the local church or during the meeting of a small group. This can happen following a regular Sunday church service or during a small group meeting. It is also possible to organize special prayer and vision sharing meetings.



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However, such meetings are only successful if they are well advertised and people are being invited vigorously. For it is asking the church to mobilize for an additional meeting. If possible, a regular meeting should be chosen to start the fishing net prayer. After a riveting message and the presentation of the coming LiFe Seminar we allow the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of the brothers and sisters. God's Spirit produces the yearning for the salvation of people in our proximity. Everyone writes on a card his or her name and the name of those persons that he or she wants to invite and pray for. For example:

John - my brother in law

Peter - my son

Mary - or neighbor

Sometimes we feel pressure to fill such a prayercard and would prefer to be spontaneously led by the Holy Spirit to pray for certain people. Or we are shy to "out" ourselves in a small group or in church. Naturally, if I say that I want to invite my brother in law John for the next LiFe Seminar then this becomes binding. Then my friends in the small group begin to pray for John and will ask me a few weeks later if I did invite him. Not every small group or church member is willing to take that step of commitment. But many are happy for the intercession of their brothers and sisters and grateful for the inquiry because this helps them to accomplish their intention!

Of course, the filling out of a prayercard is completely voluntary and thought to be a help for those who can identify with this approach.



From the PrayerCard to the Fishing Net Prayer

The leader of the fishing net prayer collects the prayercards and compiles a list so that the whole church can pray intentionally for the people who are to be invited. It is of course important that discretion is being used with regard to the intercessor as well as the person being prayed for. Only their given names shall be on the list. The list is not an address list - only a tool for common prayer. This prayer list is important because it helps us to keep the whole action in focus. If we use the image of a „soccer team“, we can say that each prayer partner (player) keeps an eye on the whole playing field. This is important because inevitably we will be confronted with a large number of apparently unanswered prayers. If an individual Christian struggles in this prayer battle alone, disappointment is likely and he or she will give up if prayers are not visibly answered. However when someone sees that there have been breakthroughs for other names on the list then there will be joy. The Christian identifies with this success and keeps in mind that there will be an opportunity next time, or the time after that, to accompany a guest to a LiFe Seminar.

Possible Flow of a Fishing Net Prayer

In preparation the fishing net prayer list is being distributed to all mentors or else it is made visible to all. It is worthwhile to administer this list carefully and that it looks visually appealing. At first sight this effort does not seem to be necessary. But if we award a high priority to the fishing net prayer and make an effort to give it professional attention then we can mobilize the church!



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- The prayer leader asks God for guidance in prayer.
- In an exchange of information every mentor can share in a few words what concern he or she has for a particular guest.
- If enough time is available there is prayer for the concerns of every guest. As someone prays the others join in prayer. Perhaps several Christians will pray for the same guest.
- All pray in "unison" for the requests that have been gathered during the exchange.
- The prayer leader closes with a prayer for the LiFe Seminar.

If we pray as a small group, we prepare as a team for the next evangelistic action. If the members of a small group can take the confidential list home then they will also be able to pray for the common concerns in their personal prayer time.

Update of the Fishing Net Prayer List

It is helpful to have a regular, weekly update of the fishing net prayer. If there is a prayer list only in the beginning and no update follows then the tasks suffers from credibility. Those who pray realize that certain details are no longer accurate. If, however, new names appear on the list or if next to the guests names a remark "has registered 😊" appears, then joy and confidence grows that God will lead us together to a blessed "catch of fish"!

From the Fishing Net Prayer to Intercessory Prayer

The past has shown that the battle for the salvation of people has not yet been won when a LiFe Seminar has begun! Experience attests that guests as well as mentors encounter unexpected and incredible trials in the context of a LiFe Seminar. Once, the tires on the car of the project leader were cut and he could not attend the

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preparations for the LiFe Seminar and was late for its beginning. In another case guests did not come because they had fallen as they wanted to go upstairs. A woman had no trouble to find her way to the LiFe Seminar on three occasions. But on the fourth evening she got lost in the city trying to drive to the venue and was 30 minutes late. Thanks be to God that she made a clear decision for Jesus anyhow. Oftentimes guests experience collisions in their agenda so that they cannot attend all LiFe Seminars.

So it is important that we continue our efforts in prayer also after the LiFe Seminar has begun. It makes sense to use the fishing net prayer list as a basis for the times of intercessory prayer that lay ahead.

The Bible shows us the significance of intercession in Exodus 17:8-16. As the young commander Joshua was going to war against Amalek. Moses with Aaron and Hur were on the mountain to pray. Joshua was successful against Amalek as long as Moses raised his hands in supplication!

Similarly, we can support our brothers and sisters who are committed in a LiFe Seminar as leaders, speakers, witnesses and mentors. It is a great help when a prayer group that is well informed prays concretely in support of a LiFe Seminar as it takes place. The fishing net prayer list can be used as a foundation for intercessory prayer. Some Christians are active at the LiFe Seminar others are committed in intercessory prayer.

Important for the transition to intercessory prayer is a good organization. The following questions need to be clarified: Who participates at the LiFe Seminar? Who is in the intercessory group? Where do the intercessors meet and who is leading the meeting? It is important that someone from the LiFe Seminar is in direct and regular contact with a member of the intercessory group. Current information and a good updates are useful for both sides so that they



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can engage in the battle for the salvation of souls together and stay with it until there is victory.



Fishing Net Prayer List



Example: Fishing Net Prayer List

(confidential) issue of month/day 20XX

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."
(James 5:16b)

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven." (Matthew 18:19)

Power in Prayer

There is power in common prayer! – That is why concrete preparation in prayer is absolutely necessary for an evangelistic action such as the LiFe Seminar. It is important that we pray regularly for people that shall be invited.

P: Regular prayer before the Workshop (receives the fishing net prayer list)

M: Readiness to be a mentor.

I: Readiness to be in an intercessory group during the Workshop

P	M	I	Inviting	Possible guest	Remark
X	x	x	Hanna	Mark + Helga Theo	neighbors neighbor
x		x	Jack	Arnold	
P	M	I	Inviting	Possible guest	Remark



EXAMPLE: FISHING NET PRAYER LIST

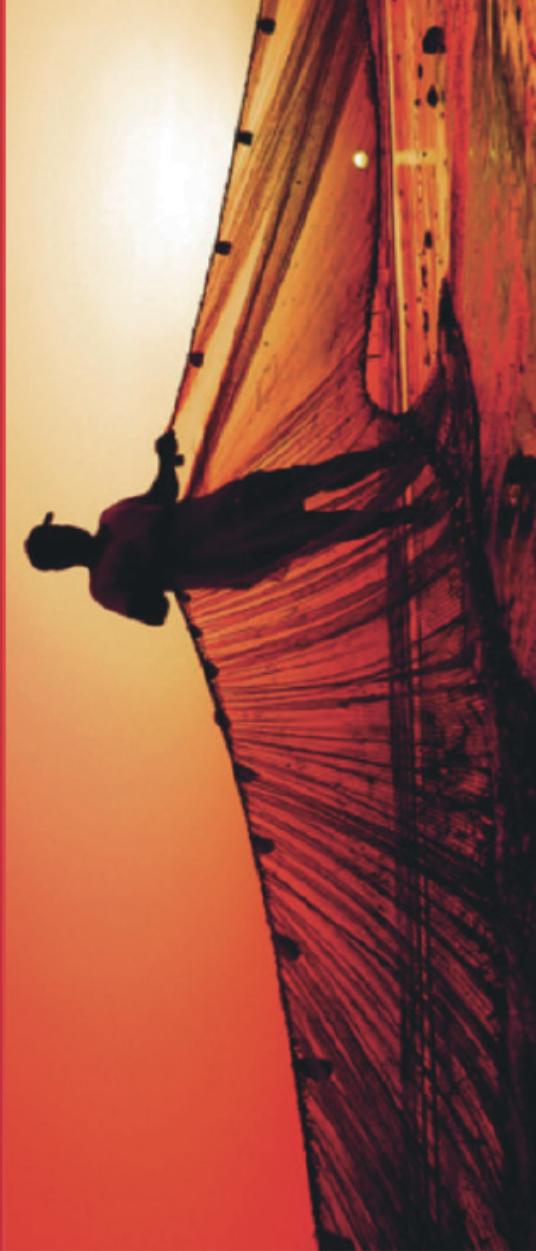
x	x	x	Stephan	Chris Svjetlana	colleague from work colleague from work
	x	x	Daniel	Eliane	wife, registered! 😊
x		x	Elisabeth	Olga Emma	friend acquaintance
x	x	x	Luke	Maria	sister of girlfriend
x			Samuel	Mike	fellow student
	x	x	Sabrina	Céline	acquaintance
x		x	Sarah	John	acquaintance
x	x	x	Simon	Annemarie Kurt	mother boss, registered! 😊
x	x	x	Youssef		
x	x	x	Esther	Dalia Mirjam Alexandra	fellow student, registered! 😊 fellow student, registered! 😊

The documents relevant to the fishing net prayer can be downloaded after registration at www.LiFe-seminar.world

EXAMPLE: FISHING NET PRAYER CARD



Life Fishing Net Prayer



Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

(Matthew 18:19)



EXAMPLE: FISHING NET PRAYER LIST

First name: _____ Name: _____

Email: _____ Date of Workshop: _____

- I commit myself to regular prayer for the coming Life Workshop
- I am available as a mentor, even if my guests decline to come
- I am available as an intercessor

I want to invite the following people:

First name: _____ Remark: _____

First name: _____ Remark: _____

First name: _____ Remark: _____

