

*"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 13:47-50 NIV*

## **Let It Down**

**The net that is let down in the lake, that's what I want you to do for me. You love to fish, don't you? Yes, I do. Well then, it's time for you to go fishing for people. I'm calling you to use your life to go fishing for me. I want you to cast out the net of the good news of forgiveness, salvation and new life in me. Are you willing to do this for me? Yes, Lord, I am. Will you go where I send you, when I prompt you? Yes, Lord, I will.**

**You must have your eyes and ears open to what people say to you. You must have your eyes and ears open to me, so that, you will know what I want you to say to them. I will do that. I will instruct your tongue. I will put my words in your mouth. I will teach you to boldly declare my word. The net will be cast far and wide. Fish of all kinds will be caught. I want you to examine all the fish. Love and pray for each and every one of them. Some will not choose to follow me. Others will not understand my call on their lives. I will use you to speak for me, so that they will come to understand and follow me.**

**How does this all sound to you? It sounds overwhelming. Yes, I'm sure that it does. It would be impossible without me helping you every step of the way. Remember, apart from me you can do nothing. Yes, Lord, I've learned that quite well.**

**But, I can tell something about you. What's that? You're very excited about the idea of me using you. Yes, Lord, I am. You have been praying that you will bear abundant fruit for me and my kingdom and glory. Yes, Lord, I have. That prayer will not go unanswered. You have been asking me to teach you how to pray. You have been asking me to revive, restore and use you in my service. Yes, Lord, I have. Those prayers will not go unanswered. You have also been asking me to teach you to be able to boldly proclaim my word. That prayer will also not go unanswered. Do you believe what I'm saying to you? Do you trust me? Will you allow me to use you? Yes, Lord, I will. Good, should we start right now, today? Yes, Lord, that sounds very good to me. Well, let's let down the net to begin catching fish.**

*Lord, open my eyes and ears to see and hear the cries of people who need you. Help me to let down my net, so that I can be used to catch people for you. Show me where to go, how to pray and what to say to those who need you. Amen*

**Parables***The Net*

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

NIV

Matthew 13:47-50

**Parables***The Net*

"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net that was thrown into the water and caught fish of every kind. When the net was full, they dragged it up onto the shore, sat down, and sorted the good fish into crates, but threw the bad ones away. That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

NLT

Matthew 13:47-50

**Parables***The Net*

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

NRSV

Matthew 13:47-50

**Parables***The Net*

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet which was cast into the sea and gathered in fish of every sort. When it was full, men dragged it up on the beach, and sat down and sorted out the good fish into baskets, but the worthless ones they threw away. So it will be at the close and consummation of the age. The angels will go forth and separate the wicked from the righteous (those who are upright and in right standing with God) And cast them [the wicked] into the furnace of fire; there will be weeping and wailing and grinding of teeth.

AMP

Matthew 13:47-50

**Parables***The Net*

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind; and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away. "So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

NASB

Matthew 13:47-50

**Parables***The Net*

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

ESV

Matthew 13:47-50

**Parables***The Net*

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

NKJV

Matthew 13:47-50

**Parables***The Net*

"Or, God's kingdom is like a fishnet cast into the sea, catching all kinds of fish. When it is full, it is hauled onto the beach. The good fish are picked out and put in a tub; those unfit to eat are thrown away. That's how it will be when the curtain comes down on history. The angels will come and cull the bad fish and throw them in the garbage. There will be a lot of desperate complaining, but it won't do any good."

MSG

Matthew 13:47-50

**Parables***The Net*

"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by a fisherman—he casts a net into the water and gathers in fish of every kind, valuable and worthless. When the net is full, he drags it up onto the beach and sits down and sorts out the edible ones into crates and throws the others away. That is the way it will be at the end of the world—the angels will come and separate the wicked people from the godly, casting the wicked into the fire; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

TLB

Matthew 13:47-50

**Parables***The Net*

"Also, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was put into the lake and caught many different kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled the net to the shore. They sat down and put all the good fish in baskets and threw away the bad fish. It will be this way at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the evil people from the good people. The angels will throw the evil people into the blazing furnace, where people will cry and grind their teeth with pain."

NCV

Matthew 13:47-50

# The Net

Year \_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

**Parables** – Matthew 13:47-50

**In Context:** *Read Matthew 13*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 13:47-50 NIV

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

"Once again, | the kingdom of heaven | is like | a net | that was | let down | into the lake | and | caught | all kinds of fish. | When it was full, | the fishermen | pulled it up | on the shore. | Then they | sat down | and | collected the good fish | in baskets, | but threw | the bad away. | This is how | it will be | at the end | of the age. | The angels | will come | and | separate the wicked | from the righteous | and | throw them | into | the fiery furnace, | where | there will be | weeping | and | gnashing of teeth.  
Matthew 13:47-50 NIV

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**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, open my eyes and ears to see and hear the cries of people who need you. Help me to let down my net, so I can be used to catch people for you. Show me where to go, how to pray and what to say to those who need you. Amen

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**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

**Where is the Lord asking you to let down your net to begin catching people for Him?**

What urgency do you feel to let down your net to be used by the Lord to catch people for Him?

**Who is the Lord leading you to pray for so that they will turn their life over to Him as their Savior and Lord?**

How attentively are you listening and watching for opportunities to share with others your faith in Christ?

When has the Lord prompted you to share your faith in Christ with someone who was in great need of Him?

**How is the Lord reviving you and giving you an urgent desire to let down your net to catch people for Him?**

Why is it not safe to assume that everyone attending church has given themselves to Christ as their Savior and Lord?

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**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Be watching and listening and praying for opportunities to let down your net to share your faith in Christ with others.

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**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord wants you to let down your net so that you can begin catching people for Him.

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**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has helped you to let down your net and share your faith.

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**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May your eyes and ears be open to the Lord so that you will know where to let down your net for Him.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, help me to watch and listen for opportunities to let down my net to share my faith in you with others.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, where do you want me to let down my net and share my faith with others today?*

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