**On Mission: 4 Keys to Launch a Purposeful Year Week 1: On Your Mark**

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**Theme: Anticipating and preparing for what God wants from us. Text: Mark 1:16-20.** *As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James, son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired and followed him (NIV).*

1. **Receiving a Call (Mark 1:17)**

* **Scripture:** *"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."*
* **Point:** Discerning the call to follow Jesus is the beginning of our journey.
* **Description:** On a race you will hear the announcer tell the runners to get to their starting lane (on your mark). Finding your lane is being aware of what is God calling you to do. Discerning your call is a serious matter. The results of the choices you make will affect the rest of your life. In the end, the question you need to ask yourself is not, “Am I called?” God calls us all to ministry in the Church. The real question is, “to which ministry is God calling me?”

1. **Preparing for Work (I Timothy 2:15)**

* **Scripture:** *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*
* **Point:** Engaging the Bible transforms our lives and prepares us for the work we have been called to do.
* **Description:** At the “on your mark” call there is work to be done. The work, however, is not to *perform*the main event but to *prepare* for it. It is necessary to clear the mind of distracting thoughts, remember instructions received and set your sight on the finish line. Never, never should this preparatory activity include thoughts of past victories, past glories. Those thought can distract us. Wise preparation is always forward-looking.

1. **Being Holy (**[**1 Peter 1:14-16**](https://ref.ly/1%20Pet%201.13-16;nasb95?t=biblia)**)**

* **Scripture:** *As obedient children do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy***.**”
* **Point:** Being “on the mark” is living a holy life.
* **Description:** Holiness is preparing our minds (and our bodies) for action. So how do we do this? What kinds of things do we need to lay aside, to take captive, in order to gird and prepare our minds for tomorrow?  What kinds of things can trip us up?  Holiness is our distinctiveness. We must be separated from the world. We must be filled and led by the Holy Spirit instead of our desires, our likes or dislikes, our wounds, our pains, our pet doctrines, our will, our heart, our appetites, our politics, our traditions, our view of self, our history, our passion, or our sin.  All these things can blind us from the way of Christ and pull us out of our lane. They can and will distract us so that we either jump the gun or don’t hear the command to “go”.

**Conclusion:** *When you have done everything, be on your mark. (Ephesians 6:13)*

* **Scripture:** *Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.* *(Ephesians 6:13)*
* **Description:** Jesus calls us to follow Him*. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."*This is a call to service, to be prepared and be holy. After we have done all to stand, then continue to stand.