

# EPIPHANY THREE: RECONFIGURATION

## BACKGROUND

The story that unfolds in **Mark 1:14-20** shows us three expected changes that take place in the experience of following Jesus: a change of personal status, a change of mindset, and a change of influence. The first is seen in Mark's super-brief reference to John the Baptizer's arrest. In all four Gospels, there is an intentional decrease of John as Jesus emerges, he fades back as Jesus takes the center of the story. John himself said this *must* happen (John 3:30). In the Gospel story, John becomes an image for us, that following Jesus includes a shift in our personal status, that we would decrease so that Jesus – and his ways – might increase in and through us. Regarding our mindset, Jesus makes clear that repentance is necessary. Repentance (Gr. *Metanoia*) has to do with perspective and a change in how we think about the world. In order to understand the “kingdom of God”, it will take a new mind (see Romans 12:1-2). Finally, we see two sets of brothers walk off the job and into a whole new vocational experience: “fishers of people.” What does that mean? It's hard to say, but it seems that Jesus was calling them into a reconfigured sense of influence, that their lives would move beyond the day to day.

## DISCUSSION: LECTIO DIVINA

Read **Mark 1:14-20** three times. After each reading, allow group members a minute to sit still and process what they've heard. Then move through the following for each reading:

### After the First Reading

What words or phrases stood out to you? Why?

### After the Second Reading

What words or phrase spoke to you personally, more directly? Why?

### After the Third Reading

What do you hear this story saying *to you*? How does it challenge your faith?

*Leader Notes: You may choose to read the “background” information (top) before you head into the lectio readings, or you may choose to hold off and use it at the end...or not at all. Your call!*

## CLOSE IN PRAYER