2026 R12.2 Leadership Conference

Being a Fisher of Men



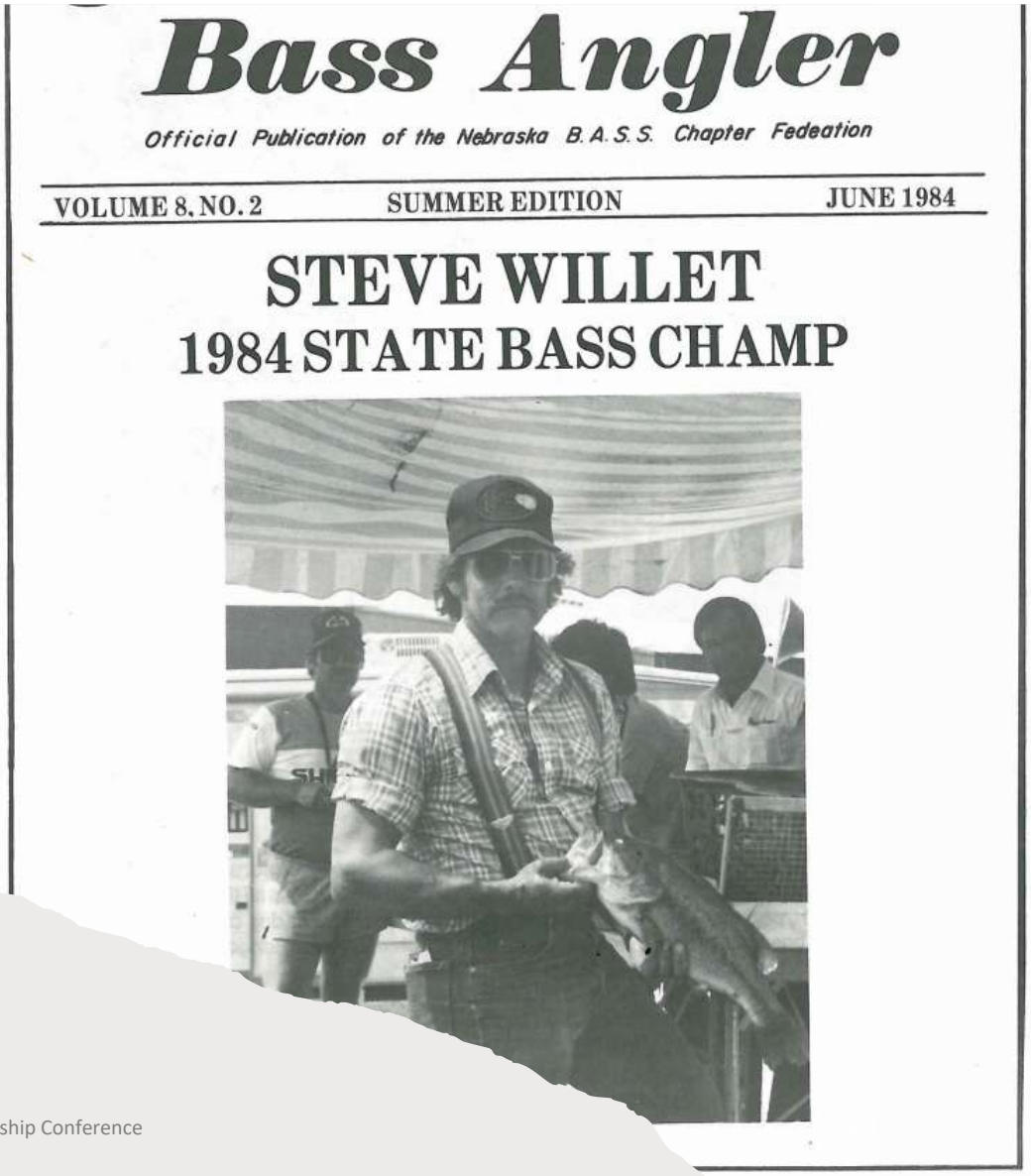
Chris Willet

4 Questions

- Why fishing?
- What does it mean to be a fisher of men?
- How to fish?
- How to define success?







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1984 STATE BASS CHAMP

Why Fishing?



What does it mean to be a fisher of men?

Matthew 4:19 *"And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you* ***fishers of men."***

Luke 5:10 *And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be* ***catching men."***

2 Timothy 2:24-26 *"The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the* ***snare of the devil, having been held captive by him*** *to do his will.*

How to fish?
4 P's of Fishing

- Prepare
- Plan
- Participate
- Persevere



Prepare

- **PACK YOUR TACKLEBOX**
  - **GOD'S WORD** ***Romans 10:17*** *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."*
  - **ROMANS ROAD**
  - **GOSPEL TRACTS**
  - **TESTIMONY**

- **PRAYER (MEMORIZE THESE 2 VERSES AND PRAY THEM!!)**
  - ***John 6:44*** *"No one can come to me* ***unless the Father who sent me draws him****, and I will raise him up at the last day.*
  - ***Colossians 4:2–4*** *"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too****, that God may open a door for our message****, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.* ***Pray that I may proclaim it clearly****, as I should."*



Plan

- **SPEND TIME WITH THE CHIEF FISHERMAN – HE WILL MAKE YOU A FISHERMAN AND HE KNOWS WHERE THE FISH ARE!**
  - ***Luke 5:4-6*** *"When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "**Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch**." Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets." When they had done this, they **enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break"***
- **MAKE THE CHOICE TO GO FISHING (DAILY)**
  - ***2 Corinthians 5:14–17*** *"For **Christ's love compels us**…**So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.** Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"*
- **HEAD TO THE POND (HINT: IT'S WHERE GOD HAS YOU!)**



Participate

- **LOVE & SERVE PEOPLE**
  - ***1 John 4:7*** *" Dear friends, **let us love one another**, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."*
- **INVITE PEOPLE….WHEN GOD PUTS SOMEONE ON YOUR HEART - MAKE AN APPOINTMENT!**
- **MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY**
  - ***Colossians 4:4-6*** *"**Pray that I may proclaim it clearly,** as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; **make the most of every opportunity.** Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."*



Participate

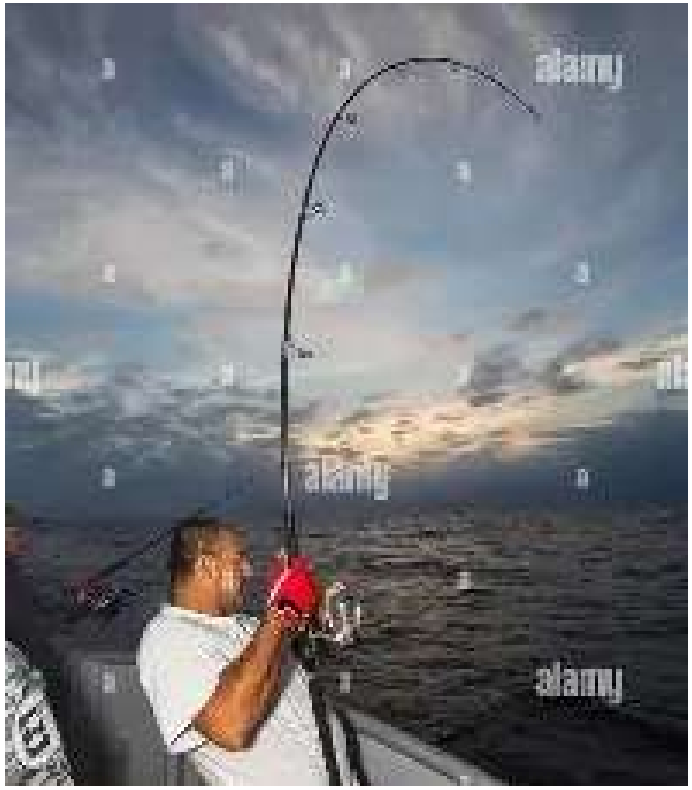
- **How to make the Most of Every Opportunity?**
- **F-I-R-E** is a conversational way to bring up spiritual things, by asking questions.
  - **F** is for **Family**
  - **I** is for **Interests**
  - **R** is for **Religious Background**
  - **E** is for **Exploratory Questions**
    - *Have you come to a place in your spiritual life that if you died today, you know that you will go to heaven and have eternal life?*
    - *If you were to die today and stand before God and He asked you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" What would you say?*



Participate

WHAT IF YOU GET A BITE?

- **INVITE…TO HEAR & READ GOD'S WORD.**
- **GO TO THE TACKLEBOX…GOD'S WORD, TRACTS, TESTIMONY:**
  - **Hearing: Have the person read the verse out load.**
    - ***Romans 10:17*** *"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and* ***the message is heard through the word of Christ."***
  - **Ask:** ***"What is God saying in this verse?"***
    - ***Luke 10: 25-26*** *"On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"* ***"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"***
  - **Response:** ***"Do you want to respond to Gods invitation to believe in Christ?"***



Persevere (How to define success)

- **THE KEY: RESULTS ARE UP TO GOD**
  - ***2 Corinthians 4:3–6*** *"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God…. **For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts** to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."*
  - ***1 Corinthians 3:6*** *"I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth."*
- **SUCCESS / REWARD IS BASED ON FAITHFULNESS TO FISH, NOT THE RESULTS.**
  - ***1 Corinthians 3:6–8*** *"So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but **each will receive his own reward according to his own labor."***



Remember the Mission…
…And the Mission is Fishin'

Matthew 4:19 *"And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

Matthew 28:18-20 *"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

THE CALL: GRAB A HOOK AND START FISHING!