

LIFE Groups Discussion Guide

Luke 5:1-11
“A Greater Purpose”



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?


What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?


INTRODUCTION

In Luke 5:1-11, Jesus meets Simon Peter and his companions after a long, discouraging night of fishing with no success. Despite their exhaustion, Peter obeys Jesus' call to let down the nets one more time – and experiences a miraculous catch of fish. In this moment, Peter realizes who Jesus is and responds with humility and surrender. Jesus then calls Peter to a greater purpose: to become a “fisher of people.” This should challenge us to examine our own obedience to Jesus, let go of distractions, and trust Him as He calls us to a life of deeper purpose and disciple making.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

 Have someone read aloud...
LUKE 5:1-11.

- **Do you believe that it is important to make goals? Why or why not?**
- **What does this passage teach us about Jesus and how He invites people to follow Him?**
- **How does Peter's response to Jesus' request demonstrate his trust, even when the command didn't make sense?**

 Have someone read aloud...
MATTHEW 4:18-20.



- What does this parallel verse in Matthew highlight from Luke’s account?
- How do these passages challenge the way we view succeeding, obeying, and following Jesus in our day-to-day lives?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- What specific area of your life is God calling you to trust Him, even when it doesn’t seem logical or convenient?
- Reflect on a time when God provided or worked in unexpected ways in your life. How does remembering His faithfulness help you trust Him today?
- What habits or distractions might you need to leave behind to follow Jesus more fully as Peter left his nets?
- Who is someone in your life that needs to hear about Jesus? How can you “fish for people” in your daily context?

PRAYER

Close your time together by sharing prayer requests, praying for each other, and the group.

Invite the group to share areas where they need to trust Jesus more or where they feel called to step out in faith. Pray for boldness, trust, and the willingness to leave everything to follow Him.

QUESTIONS FOR LATER

What does this story tell us about Jesus?

Focus on Jesus’ power and kindness— He helped Peter and his friends catch a lot of fish! Jesus is in control of everything, even fish, and He calls people to follow Him.

How do you think Peter felt when Jesus asked him to fish again, and how did he respond?

Think about how Peter might have been tired or surprised, but he still listened to Jesus. Peter trusted Jesus even when it didn’t make sense, showing us that we can trust God, too.

What can we learn from Peter and his friends leaving everything to follow Jesus?



Peter and his friends loved Jesus so much that they wanted to go with Him. Think about what it means to put Jesus first in your life and follow Him wherever He leads.

COMMENTARY

A Bit of Background

Luke 5:1-11 takes place during the early days of Jesus' ministry. The Sea of Galilee, where this passage happens, was a central hub for fishing. Many people in Galilee relied on fishing for their livelihood, including Simon Peter and his partners James and John.

Fishing in the first century was grueling, hard work. Fishermen worked at night when fish were more active, and their nets were heavy and difficult to manage. After a long night of catching nothing, Simon Peter and his crew would have been frustrated, tired, and ready to go home. Jesus steps into Simon Peter's boat, uses it as a pulpit to teach the crowds, and then turns to Peter with a surprising request: "Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch" (v. 4).

This is significant because Peter, as an experienced fisherman, knew the waters and the patterns of fishing. It's daylight, the wrong time for fishing, and he has already come up empty after hours of effort. Yet, Peter obeys Jesus' word, and what happens next is a miraculous catch so big it overwhelms their nets! Peter recognizes Jesus' authority and holiness, leading him to fall to his knees in awe and say, "Go away from me, because I'm a sinful man, Lord!" (v. 8)

What's Going On?

Luke, the author of this Gospel, was an incredibly careful storyteller. He writes with a specific purpose: to show us who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him. Luke 5:1-11 comes right after Jesus begins His ministry in Galilee, teaching in synagogues and healing people. The miracle in this passage reveals Jesus as someone with divine authority, not only over people but also over creation itself—He commands the fish to gather, and they do!

This passage also introduces an important theme in Luke: Jesus calls ordinary, imperfect people to be His followers. Simon Peter isn't a religious leader or scholar. He's a fisherman. His immediate reaction to Jesus' miracle is humility and an awareness of his sinfulness. Yet, Jesus doesn't reject Peter. Instead, He invites Peter to a new purpose: to "fish for people," meaning to help bring others into God's Kingdom.

The literary flow here also highlights the disciples' response. They leave everything behind to follow Jesus, demonstrating that encountering Jesus changes lives. By combining a miraculous act with a personal call, Luke 5:1-11 sets the stage for the disciples' journey of faith and the transforming power of Jesus' presence. It challenges us to respond with the same trust, humility, and willingness to follow Jesus wherever He leads.

