

Get more out of the message



LUKE

Luke 5:1-11

How can we become the Christ-centered church our world so desperately needs? Join us in Luke's Gospel, the most expansive biography of Jesus in the Bible. With the beloved physician as our guide, we hope to experience Jesus so we can participate with the new reality God is bringing into our world.

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The Big Idea

Why should you reprioritize your entire life to follow Jesus? Because when you recognize what He did back then, you realize nothing matters more than what He's doing now.

Good to Know

- Luke 5:1-11 is the first time we see someone follow Jesus—and who pops up? Simon Peter! Unfortunately, this story is often misunderstood. Take it from us...this is not a story about catching fish! There's something far more profound at play.
- Theophilus, (along with Luke's original readers), would have known all about Peter, the church's most famous leader. But while Matthew, Mark and John mention that Jesus called him as a disciple, Luke is the only one who actually tells us the details of how it happened. Why? Because Peter's calling story is actually our calling story.
- Notice Peter has nothing like what we would call a "conversation" story. Instead, this is his call to discipleship. Jesus doesn't say, "Now you're a Christian." He says, "From now on, you'll be catching men" (v. 10).
- Modern American Christians tend to separate "getting saved" and "being called." But the Bible is clear—following Jesus isn't just about believing in Him; it's about reshaping your entire life around His heart and mission.
- When you really pay attention to this story, you realize something shocking: Peter left everything (v. 11) to follow Jesus.
- Surely that's too extreme, right? Jesus would make a terrible marketer! Who would leave behind family and a reliable paycheck to follow a controversial Jewish rabbi?
- But look closer. Jesus supernaturally filled Peter's nets—something Peter, despite all his expertise, had been unable to do. Then He essentially said: "Look around. Do you see these crowds pressing in? (v. 1) I want you to help me with a 'haul' that makes this boatload of fish look like child's play."
- Peter left everything because he realized nothing mattered more than what Jesus was about to do. When we feel the sheer magnitude of the people being drawn to Jesus—here and around the world—we discover the deep purpose we've been longing for.

- **“Lake of Gennesaret” (v. 1)** - Also called the Sea of Galilee in the New Testament and Kinneret in the Old Testament. Kinneret is Hebrew for “violin” or “lyre” because of its shape.
- **Gennesaret: An Ecological Marvel** - This lake is the lowest freshwater lake on the planet and over twice the size of all five Madison lakes combined! The rabbis even had a saying: “Although God has created seven seas, He has chosen this one as His special delight.”
- **“Washing their nets” (v. 2)** - They were likely squatting on the shore, picking out seaweed and debris after a long, fruitless night of fishing.
- **“Taught the people from the boat” (v. 3)** - With 16 densely populated towns around the lake, a massive crowd was forming, making it impossible for Jesus to move or speak. The water created a natural amphitheater, amplifying His voice across the shore.
- **“Put out into the deep and let down your nets” (v. 4)** - Jesus clearly didn’t know what He was talking about...or did He? Deep-water fishing required a dragnet, which needed two boats and a crew—definitely not an ideal setup in broad daylight.
- **“Master, we toiled all night” (v. 5)** - Peter, an expert fisherman, politely explained that there was no way they were about to catch anything—especially under the hot sun.
- **“Their nets were breaking” and “filled both boats” (vv. 6-7)** - This wasn’t just a good catch; it was a miraculous, once-in-a-lifetime haul—perhaps a week’s worth of fish in a single moment.
- **“Depart from me, for I am a sinful man!” (v. 8)** - Peter had already seen Jesus heal his mother-in-law (4:39), and now, he witnessed Jesus’ power over creation itself. Like Isaiah in Isaiah 6:5, Peter instantly knew he wasn’t worthy to stand in Jesus’ presence.
- **“O Lord” (v. 8)** - Peter’s title for Jesus shifts from the polite “Master” to the worshipful “Lord.”
- **“From now on, you will be catching men” (v. 10)** - Jesus cleverly turned the miracle into a metaphor: “This catch of fish is nothing compared to the multitudes who will soon come flocking to me—and I want you to help bring them in!”
- This passage isn’t about fish. It’s about purpose. It’s about realizing Jesus is doing something so big, so history-shaping, that we’d be crazy NOT to drop everything and follow Him.

Group Guide

Following the series with your group?

- Start with some [icebreaker questions](#).
- Read the passage together before you dive in.
- Share any insights from the message. Use the questions below to get your conversation started.

Conversation Starters

1. Got any fishing stories to share? Or has anyone in your group visited the Sea of Galilee? (If not, look it up together and be amazed!)
2. Peter and his crew had just finished a long, exhausting night of catching nothing (v. 5). How do you typically respond when Jesus calls you to something right when you feel drained or discouraged?
3. Jesus told Peter to do something that made no sense, and yet, he did it simply because He told him to. Do you find yourself mostly taking Jesus’ advice when it makes sense to you?
4. Jesus said that the massive haul of fish was a picture of how Jesus was going to draw massive crowds of people to Himself. How have you seen that play out throughout history?

5. Where are the “nets breaking” at DCC because so many people are coming to Christ?
6. Peter’s comfort zone was his boat. What’s yours?
7. What does it look like for you to “leave everything and follow Him?” (i.e. How is God calling you to reprioritize your life around Jesus and His mission?)

Prayer

Jesus, open our eyes to the magnitude of your mission! Give us wisdom and courage to see exactly how you are calling us to participate in the great catch of people happening all around us!

Looking for more prayer opportunities?

Click [here](#) to be notified about ongoing DCC prayer needs.

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