

Sermon-Based Small Group Bible Study

Encounters with Jesus: Jesus and the Fishermen (Luke 5:1–11)

Open

Select one of these “ice breakers” to get the conversation going toward the study.

- What is a subject or a skill that you can “school” others about?
- What is the biggest crowd you’ve ever been a part of?
- Do you like to fish? Do you have any fishing stories?

Dig

After reading Luke 5:1–11 together, discuss these questions.

1. In this narrative Jesus is surrounded by a large crowd that wants to hear him deliver “the word of God.” In Luke 4:28–30, another group wanted to kill him. Why the difference, do you think?
2. Fishermen like Simon Peter knew that the fish in the lake tend to be closer to the surface in the night and deeper in the heat of the day. What does that detail tell you about Peter’s words in verse 5? Does he sound respectful? Cheeky? Resigned? Something else?
3. Compare Peter’s words in verse 5 to his later response in verse 8. What is similar? Different? What has happened that makes the difference?
4. Read Isaiah 6:1–8. What do you see that is like the story of Jesus and Peter? What does that tell you about Jesus? About Peter? About the call to “catch people”?
5. Peter and his associates leave everything to follow Jesus. What do you think they lost in that step? What did they gain?

Reflect

Use any of these prompts to encourage group members to apply the text to their own experiences.

- Where are you in the crowd at the lake with Jesus? Hanging at the back? Somewhere in the middle? On the front row? Ready to jump in the boat?
- What is something the Lord tells his people to do that doesn’t make sense to conventional human wisdom? Do you struggle with this as Peter did?
- Pastor Bryan reminded us that this story shows that God is with us even in the mundane. What is a mundane thing in which you are aware of God’s presence and provision?
- How has following Jesus changed the direction your life was taking or might have taken? What challenges and changes do you think lie ahead?

Pray

Invite the group to pray together using any of these suggestions.

- What needs have you heard from others in the group that we can pray about?
- What is God calling you to do that doesn’t make sense, that requires an extra measure of trust?
- In what areas do you feel the need for the kind of patient mercy that Jesus showed Peter?
- What guidance from Jesus do you need in your current “fishing expedition”?