



Week of February 10, 2019

Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God,

² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.

³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."

⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets."

⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.

⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"

⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken;

¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people."

¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Note:

The lake of Gennesaret is actually the sea of Galilee. Gennesaret is on the northwest corner of the sea of Galilee.

Reminder: Simon = Simon Peter = Peter.

Peter had one previous encounter with Jesus. In the previous chapter, Jesus went to his house and healed his sick mother-in-law.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. Describe your best experience of fishing (and if you've never gone fishing, talk about what you think of fishing).
- B. Are you good at "thinking on your feet"? Describe a time when you were asked to make a quick decision.

Bible Study Questions:

1. Imagine the scene. What time of day is it? How many people are on the shore? How far out is the boat? Is there anything interesting you notice from your imagination of what this scene was like?
2. What do you think the fish represent? If you hadn't already read the end of the story – if you only read verses 1 to 9 – what would you think the fish represent?
3. What's the difference between "fishing" and "catching"? In your faith life, have you been fishing or catching?
4. Why do you think Peter says: "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"
5. Peter, James, and John walk away from their haul for the mission Jesus gives them. Why do you think they do this?
6. Is your life filled to overflowing? What can you throw overboard to make room for the fish?
7. What might God be calling you to walk away from to serve a higher mission?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers for discerning how you can make more room in your lives for the "fish" God wants to give you