



Small Group Bible Study—St. Paul's: Onalaska

WK 4: Our Doubts – His Mission

Based on sermon from Feb 10th, 2019

Luke 5:1-11

WARM UP

1. Agree or disagree: Fishing is the greatest hobby ever.

Commented [OD1]: This should get any new people who doesn't know the group that well to talk a bit about why they love or hate fishing. It'll also lead into the lesson.

INTO THE TEXT

2. Why did Simon Peter seem to question Jesus' command to "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch"? Why do you think he did it anyway?

Commented [OD2]: He had been fishing all night long, which is the best time to fish and he was probably tired. Plus he is a professional fisherman. He probably respected Jesus enough, but his wording, "because you say so", shows that he doesn't think it's going to work.

3. After the miracle, notice the reaction of Peter. Why do you think he said what he said?

Commented [OD3]: Vs. 8, "When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man." Answer 1) he fell on his knees like a man begging for mercy 2) he admits that he is sinful and unworthy to be in the presence of the holy God/messiah.

4. What do you think is the purpose and/or the results of the miracle? In what way do you think this motivated them in their task of fishing for men?

Commented [OD4]: The purpose of this miracle is to help Peter recognize who Jesus is. That's why he was so afraid, because he recognized who Jesus was. The motivation is mentioned in the sermon – he was in the presence of God and wasn't killed. He was a recipient of God's grace this is our motivation for sharing the gospel.

DIGGING DEEPER

5. What do we learn about the presence of a holy God and sinful man from any of the following:

- Exodus 33:18-20 Moses and the glory of the Lord

Commented [OD5]: This is not a major point to dwell on but it does focus people on a part of the text that motivates people to fish for men. God says here that no one can see the face of God and live. If you look at 2 Chronicles 13:9-12 The death of Uzzah, you can see a real example of what happens when a sinner is in the presence of a holy God.

- Isaiah 6:1-8 Isaiah in the throne room of God

Commented [OD6]: You can look at Isaiah 6 like I did in the sermon if you'd like. Isaiah had the same reaction when he was in the throne room of God. But through God's forgiveness he was made worthy to be in his presence. He does the same for us, and this is why we sing this before we take the Lord's Supper (Sanctus).

6. Read Isaiah 55:10-11. How does this promise disagree with the person who says:

- a. I didn't get anything out of that church service.

Commented [OD7]: That's simply not possible. God's word was read throughout the whole service, in the liturgy, sermon, hymns, lessons, etc. That's the gospel. Therefore they did get something out of it, because God says that they did. Sometimes people mistake intellectual stimulation for strengthening of faith. At the same time a pastor does want to provide a sermon that is memorable, so that people are talking about it.

- b. I tried reading the bible but I just don't feel like my faith is growing.

Commented [OD8]: Feelings are tainted with sin. We can't trust them. The bible never says that you can feel your faith growing or dying. The illustration I always use is that of CEPA, which is a disease where people are born without the ability to feel pain. It sounds good at first but it's actually terrible. Most people die an early death. They have to be told to eat. They are taken to the ER constantly for x-rays just in case. It's the same way for our souls, we can feel if they are dying or thriving, so we have to simply feed the soul with the only food available – the gospel.

- c. I'm not going to bother saying something to my friend about their spiritual life. They wouldn't be interested anyway, because they're not into that.

Commented [OD9]: Don't underestimate God's Word. It always has an effect. Sometimes to draw them closer to the Lord, other times to draw them further from him. But God's word always does something.

NOW WHAT?

7. The last verse of our lesson says, "So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him." The phrase "left everything" shows that there is a personal sacrifice made in being a fisher of people. What does that sacrifice look like for you or others nowadays as we work together as individuals and as a congregation to fish for people?

Commented [OD10]: Make sure that people know that Jesus is not saying here that everyone must leave their vocation and go somewhere else to share the gospel. God has placed unbelievers all around us with whom we get to share the gospel. There are a lot of answers to this, both from a congregation perspective and an individual perspective. The sacrifice could be: giving up money, time, talents to support the work of the local church and/or synod. Talk about CMO (congregational mission offering) and how important that is as we work together (synod) to reach out. The sacrifice for a pastor or teacher may be moving to a different country or area where you have no family to serve a different congregation. The sacrifice could be risking a friendship or making things uncomfortable with a family member by continuing to show your care over their soul.