



SERMON STUDY GUIDE
For the sermon preached on
9/13/2020:
“Box on Fire”
Luke 5:1-11

How to use the Study Guide During Virtual Online Group Meetings

Group life is even more critical during this incredible season. Over and over, group leaders are reporting that suddenly there is a new hunger to connect, share, pray, and meditate on Scripture together, and so we are making these guides available weekly and suggesting a new format during this season.

As you know, our Group Life’s vision is to “practice the way of Jesus.” And while Jesus never had to lead a Torah study over Zoom, he was strategic in his teaching ministry, and we want to be as well.

There are a number of differences between meeting in person and meeting online, ranging from the obvious to the subtle. One is, given our attention spans for online meetings, we want to encourage you to limit the length of your call between 45-60 minutes and we are calling this “Check-In Plus One.” Meaning, spend a few minutes checking in with your group and see if there are any new needs with them (or even amongst their neighbors). “The One” is to spend time in study. As our virtual season continues, our desire for meaningful content and interaction will grow. Given our new format, the study guides based on Sunday’s Sermon will be designed to be more application based (as opposed to unpacking the text with the Inductive Bible Study method). You might consider sharing the passage beforehand with your group in hopes that they might spend more time with the Scripture before the gathering.

As always, we are so grateful for you, your gifting, your servant leadership, and all that you do in practicing the way of Jesus in community.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Tim Ghali and Pastor Rachel Keeler on behalf of the Group Life Team

For the Leader: “Check-In Plus One”

Welcome everyone to the Zoom call and outline the goal of this call being 45 minutes. Spend 15-20 minutes checking in with one another, then move into a time of prayer, and then spend some time discussing the application of the Scripture passage.

A “Check-in” question might be, “How are you doing, and is there anything new that has arisen in your life or in your neighborhood that we can pray about?”

For the Group:

Welcome back to a new ministry year, we are first grateful that the Lord has been with us and is with us now. We hold fast that as we begin this fall filled with uncertainty, tension, and personal challenges, that the Lord is at work in us and all around us.

Grace Chapel has kicked off our new teaching journey with a series appropriately called, “Disrupted: Following Jesus Outside the Box.” This fall, we will be spending time learning from the Gospel of Luke and today we want to look at Luke 5:1-11.

1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. **2** He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who 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 from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

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

5 Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began 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 full that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” **9** For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, **10** and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” **11** So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Q – When Jesus instructs the fishermen to let down their nets in deeper water, we can see both their reluctance and their willingness to try anything that might work. And as we read, it was that advice that led to incredible success.

- Have you ever experienced a time where you were standing at your “water’s edge” and felt Jesus call you towards something strange or risky and it led to something wonderful?
- How did you feel closer to Jesus as a result of the experience?

Q – All our lives have been disrupted on some level. Pastor Bryan shared some of the losses he has felt during this time, like not being able to gather on Sundays and not being able to travel for ministry or visit family. And yet, there have been a few pleasant surprises the Lord has shown Bryan. What about you?

- What are the disruptions you have experienced and the losses you miss the most?
- What pleasant surprises have you encountered in the midst of the disruption and loss?

Q – At the end of the passage, Jesus invites Peter and the disciples to become fishers of men and women and the text says they left their nets and followed him.

- There was a graphic shown of 5 movements: Disruption, Divine Encounter, Do Something Different, Decisive Moment, and Discovering Life – What thoughts come to your mind as we consider this vision of “upward spiral?” *(Leader, if you are able to share your screen, the graphic is included at the bottom of the study for visual help).*
- We also have an opportunity to leave our old nets behind and follow Jesus to something new. It might not be a career change, it might be more about leaving an old attitude and with God’s help, pursue a new way or perspective. It may cause some disruption, but what old box might Jesus be asking you to leave behind, and what might Jesus be reforming in you now?

There will be freedom, joy, and meaning that will come as we follow Jesus in the midst of disruption and obedience. Let’s pray in hopefulness that God will be with us as a church, as a small group community and as disciples as we begin a new ministry year.

