

STUDY 5: FOLLOWING JESUS. Luke 5.

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.

Debrief Together:

1. Describe Peter's reaction to the large catch of fish.
2. What does the line, "they left everything and followed him" teach us about following Jesus?
3. What does Jesus mean by, "you will fish for people"? How does this help you understand what it means to follow Jesus?
4. What excites you and perhaps concerns you about following Jesus?
5. What are habits, ways of living, ways of thinking, or relationships you might have to leave behind in order to follow Jesus?

Going Deeper:

Read, Romans 10:9-10: *9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

- What is the Bible promising in this passage?
- What is holding you back right now from accepting Jesus as your leader and savior?
- What would help you take a next step towards Jesus?

SUMMARY: Jesus calls Peter to follow him. The moment of his calling is filled with all kinds of emotions and thoughts. This passage has something to show us about what it means to follow Jesus and how we might experience that invitation.