

## BUMC Weekly Bible and Sermon Study

**Sermon:** “The Call to Fish” from the “Call Stories” sermon series

**Scripture:** Luke 5:1-11

### Key take-aways from the Scripture

- In this section of Luke, Jesus calls the first disciples to follow Him: Peter, James and John.
- According to the Shepherd’s Notes: Book of Luke, following Jesus takes three important things: (1) Obedience, as we see in vv. 1-5; (2) Confession, as we see in vv. 6-8; and (3) Commitment, that we see in vv. 9-11.
- In vv. 1-5, Jesus is preaching to large crowds of people on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus noticed two empty boats and approached the owner, Simon Peter, to have the boats pushed out into the water. This way, Jesus could sit in the boat and teach the large crowds by the shore from the boat. After Jesus was finished preaching, he directed Peter to, “...go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.” Peter responded to Jesus by saying they had fished all night and caught nothing but will do so.
- In vv. 6-8, we see that Simon Peter’s obedience has results! “And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear.” Simon Peter was so overwhelmed by this miracle “...he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, ‘Oh Lord, please leave me-I’m such a sinful man.’” Simon Peter’s obedience led to amazement to the miracle Jesus performed, and confession of his shortcomings as a response.
- In vv. 9-11, we see that Simon Peter’s partners, James, and John, were also amazed at the miracle they witnessed. Jesus replied to Simon Peter, “Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people! And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.” According to The Bible Background Commentary: New Testament by Craig S. Keener, “Fisherman made a better-than-average income, so leaving their job is an act of radical commitment that they would expect to adversely affect them economically.”

### Key take-aways from the Sermon

- Raphael's painting in the Sistine Chapel based on today's Scripture verse: pay attention to Simon Peter's face in this painting. It is a look of fear, from exhaustion and frustration.
- Jesus requested that Simon Peter and the other disciples to go and put the fishing nets back out into the water after a long, hard day of trying to catch something. As exhausted and frustrated they may have been, they were obedient to Jesus.
- Peter may have been reluctant, but he obeyed. We see a mix between Peter's own sinfulness and Jesus' holiness all in one moment. Jesus notices this and tells him in verse 10, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."
- Jesus was giving Peter a call to leave everything behind and go on a new mission in life. Peter steps out in faith and he was never again the same! Although he was fearful, he moved forward, and everything changed for him! Jesus seeks out each of us and calls for us to "fish for people"!
- Catch and release: a term we use for fishing. Think of this as the calling that Jesus is giving us to get people caught up into His grace and released from everything holding them back for the life He desires for them. This is *evangelism*!
- Do Not Be Afraid! Do not let your fears and insecurities prevent you from your calling! Peter was afraid, but he stepped out in faith. We can as well!
- Jesus is calling us to go and share His love and grace with others, with our words and actions. He wants to use you to change the world and use you to change someone else's world as well.
- If you want to catch fish, we must go to where the fish are. You must be willing to get dirty. This applies to us "fishing for people". Jesus models this above anyone else. He stepped into our messy world so that we can know His love.
- Fishing takes time and patience. When we "fish for people", we tend to get frustrated easily and feel like nothing is happening. We must be patient!
- Reflect on how you came to know Jesus Christ. This is most likely a person who knew you and loved you. Just as God used them and their ordinary life, God wants to use you as well.
- We can all say to someone else to come and see and hear. Come and meet this man named Jesus. He changed my life and can change yours as well!

### Questions for Personal Reflection or Group Discussion

- What were your key take-aways from the sermon? How can you apply this to your everyday life?
- What did Jesus mean by telling Simon Peter that he will be “fishing for people”?
- How can we make a “radical commitment” to follow Christ, just as the early disciples did?
- What must we do to answer Jesus’ call to us? What will that look like for you personally?
- Reflect on how you came to know Jesus Christ. Who was it? Why was this special to you?
  - What can you take from this to help someone know Jesus Christ, and His grace and love for us?

