

STUDY GUIDE

NEW VISION
THE MIDDLE
JESUS CALLS
THE
DISCIPLES
LUKE 5:1-11
08/27/2017



NEW VISION

MAIN POINT

The greatest gift Christ followers can give someone is an introduction to the God who created us, loves us, and has a specific purpose for our lives.

INTRODUCE

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

When was the last time you discovered a favorite new song, diet, or insight that made life better? What was it and how easy was it to share that knowledge with those around you?

Why does sharing the message of Christ often feel so much harder than sharing other things you are excited about?

As believers, we are called to live our lives in a way that directly and indirectly points others to Jesus. By investing in the lives of others, inviting them into His body of believers on earth, we must be willing to enter the zone of the unknown (that is, the uncertainty of how they may respond) and actively listen for the Spirit's prompting as we seek to proclaim the gospel's good news of salvation and life.

READ AND REBUILD THE STORY READ LUKE 5: 1-11

HAVE A VOLUNTEER TELL THE STORY (LUKE 5:1-11) DO AS BEST YOU CAN, DO NOT STOP AND TEACH, TRY NOT TO MAKE POINTS (COMMENTARY), JUST TELL THE STORY.

REBUILD THE STORY AS A GROUP: CHRONOLOGICALLY REBUILD THE STORY FROM MEMORY. ASK QUESTIONS IF NECESSARY. LIKE – "WHAT HAPPENED FIRST?", "WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?", "DID WE LEAVE OUT ANYTHING?" FINALLY, HAVE PARTICIPANTS LOOK AT THEIR BIBLES AND SEE IF ANYTHING WAS ADDED OR LEFT OUT OF THE STORY AS THEY GO THROUGH IT ONE MORE TIME

Jesus called disciples to follow Him and to help Him in His ministry. Some of the first disciples called were fishermen: Simon (Peter), James, and John.

Why do you think Jesus performed this particular miracle in the midst of His healing and teaching? Why was Peter so quick to obey Jesus' instruction?

What did Jesus reveal to Peter through this miracle? How did Peter respond (v. 8)?

Read verses 10-11 again. What did the fishing represent? What do you think made the men leave behind everything they knew to follow Jesus?

Find phrases in Luke 5:4-10 that describe the meaning of following Jesus after becoming a Christian.

In each of the stories from the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry, Luke emphasized Jesus' authority and the powerful affect of His words. The prophecy from Isaiah 61:1-2 (quoted in Luke 4:18-19) was fulfilled in Jesus, and His actions along with His speech authenticated that He is the Messiah.

APPLY

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

General Questions to ask after each story. These questions may lead to follow up questions that you ask as you dig deeper into the groups/individuals response to the initial questions.

Where do you see yourself in this story?

What do we learn about Jesus/God in this story?

What do we learn about man in this story?

What is Jesus teaching you personally through this story?

What application/adjustment do you need to make in your life due to the truth discovered in this story?

Extra Questions:

What would make these professional fishermen want to listen to Jesus and put his nets back out, especially since he was not a fisherman?

What would make these same fishermen lay down their nets for good and follow Jesus for the rest of their lives?

What does it mean to you to follow Jesus?

Is there a cost involved in following Jesus?

What have you done recently simply because Christ asked you to do it?

It say's they left everything to follow him - what have you left behind to follow Christ?

PRAY

Thank God for sending His spirit to dwell among us, burdening our hearts for all those around us. Pray that our attention and obedience to the Great Commission, the very calling of our lives, would work through our community, our generation, and our world through the power and working of God alone in order that all people, tribes, and nations would one day experience the ultimate joy, salvation, and life of knowing Jesus Christ as Lord. Ask God to compel, equip, and send us out, breaking our hearts for what breaks His—the lost state of His sheep. Finally, pray that, as we continue loving and investing in people, inviting them into the work of God and His church wherever we go, the kingdom celebration would continue at our church week-in and week-out as we carry that rejoicing into heaven, where we will celebrate, enjoy, and glorify our God forever.

COMMENTARY

LUKE 5:1-11

5:1-3. This chapter of Luke illustrates responses of those who acknowledge Jesus and accept His authority. The first example features a defining moment for Simon Peter, James, and John as they responded to Jesus' call by leaving everything to follow Him.

5:4. While addressing the crowd, Jesus had focused on teaching. When He finished speaking, He turned His attention to individuals. Jesus instructed Simon to move the vessel into deep water and there to lower the nets for a catch. At first glance we might think Jesus planned to repay Simon for use of the craft by giving the fisherman a large catch of fish. However, Jesus' intention for Simon's life was far greater.

5:5-6. Simon called Jesus Master. The Greek word translated Master is different from the word Peter used in verse 8 for "Lord." The use of these two words marks the way Simon's view of Jesus was affected by the miracle described in verses 6-7. Simon noted the fishermen had labored hard all night without results. Perhaps the men might have laughed if anyone else had told them how and where to fish. However, Simon's obedience displayed his respect for Jesus' authority. Imagine the fishermen's surprise when they caught such a great number of fish that their nets were inadequate for the weight and began to tear. Until now, they may have cooperated more out of indulgence than belief that they would catch many fish by following Jesus' instructions.

5:7-8. Even when the fishermen in the second boat joined the effort, so many fish were in both boats that they began to sink. The fish harvest was so great that it not only was too much for the nets but also overwhelmed the capacity of the small fishing boats common to the lake. The fishermen immediately recognized the miraculous nature of this experience. Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees, a sign of submission and pleading. He addressed Jesus as Lord. Here the Greek word indicates Simon was acknowledging Jesus' authority. The presence of the Lord in His holiness brings recognition of personal sin. Simon asked Jesus to depart, not because he was afraid of Jesus' power, but because Simon was aware he was a sinful man. Confronted with His holiness, many sinners want to avoid God.

5:10-11. Simon and his companions were not the only ones amazed. James and John, who had come up in the other boat (see v. 7), also responded with astonishment at the power of Christ. Luke identified James and John as Zebedee's sons. The two would join Simon Peter in the inner circle of Christ's followers. When the fishermen obeyed Jesus' instructions (and at least Simon Peter probably did so reluctantly), they caught more fish than their nets or boats could handle. Simon then recognized and acknowledged Jesus as the Lord. Although Jesus' invitation was addressed to Simon, it obviously was also meant for James and John. Luke noted the inclusiveness of the response in the plural pronoun they. Simon and his crew in one boat and James and John in the second boat brought the boats to land. Partners in commercial fishing, these three along with Andrew were to become partners in following Jesus.