



READ LUKE 5:1-11

As Jesus preached on the shore, the people kept pushing closer to hear better. Jesus noticed two boats tied up. He climbed into the boat belonging to a man named Simon (also known as Peter), who was there cleaning his nets after a night of fishing. Jesus asked Simon to bring the boat out into the water, and he preached from there.

When Jesus was finished, he told Peter to fish again in the deeper water. But Peter told him they'd been fishing all night and hadn't caught a thing. But he did what Jesus asked anyway. Suddenly the nets were full of fish.

Peter was amazed, recognizing that this moment was magical. The other fishermen were also amazed. Jesus told them that from that moment on they'd be fishing for people, and fishermen left their boats and nets and followed Jesus.

REMEMBER: Luke 5:11

They pulled their boats up on the beach, left them, nets and all, and followed him.

PRAYER

God, this is a new day. I freshly commit myself to the role you have invited me to play, as you are building your church in this world. I am awestruck again today that you include me in this grand life-giving, world-transforming endeavor. So today I will joyfully offer you:

MY LOVE / MY HEART / MY TALENTS /
MY ENERGY / MY CREATIVITY / MY FAITHFULNESS /
MY RESOURCES / AND MY GRATITUDE

I commit all of myself to the role you have assigned me in the building of your church so that it may thrive in this world. And I will "bring it" today. I will bring my best. You deserve it. Your church deserves it. It is the hope of the world.

NEXT WEEK: Luke 6:1-16

WONDER

DAY 1: Imagine that Jesus was teaching and healing in your neighborhood. Would there be throngs of people following him? Would you join them? Do you think you'd watch him with suspicion or with hope? Would you be disappointed if he didn't do any tricks or miracles? Would words alone be enough? Do his words sound too good to be true? How would you approach the Jesus in this story?

PRESENCE

DAY 2: Has the scope of all that Jesus embodies really hit Peter yet when this story begins? Do you ever have the urge to tell the characters in these stories what they're missing? To say, "Hey, Peter, that's GOD in the boat with you! Just look!" Is it possible that the same could be said in your life, that you're missing something divine around you that just hasn't caught your attention yet? What?

SURPRISE

DAY 3: How do you suppose Peter, the expert fisherman, feels when this rabbi tells him how to do his job? Would you have followed Jesus' advice if you were Peter?

WONDER

DAY 4: What happens when Peter realizes who Jesus really is? Is this what it means to have a "come to Jesus" moment? Have you, like Peter, ever been overwhelmed by a rush of awe or awareness? What was it like? Do those moments have the power to change you? How? Can these experience motivate or compel you to "drop your nets" and follow Jesus? What do you need to leave behind?

LOVE

DAY 5: Do you think it's frightening to be where Peter is: "a sinner" standing in the presence of the Messiah? Is it odd that we talk about a loving, forgiving, grace-filled God when our primal response God's presence is fear? Why?

CHARACTER

DAY 6: Where are you in this story? Are you like Peter in the beginning of the story, happy to know Jesus and proud to give him a ride on your boat? Or are you coming to grips with the vastness, power, love and holiness of Jesus? Does a glimpse of the vastness of God make you feel small? Is that a good thing, or a bad thing?

RESURRECTION

DAY 7: Read the prayer on the left. What would change if you prayed this prayer every morning? How could you daily offer God your love, your heart and your talents? Your energy, your creativity and your faithfulness? Your resources and your gratitude? Do you think making that a daily practice would be exhausting and draining? Or would it be life-giving, creating more energy and aliveness?