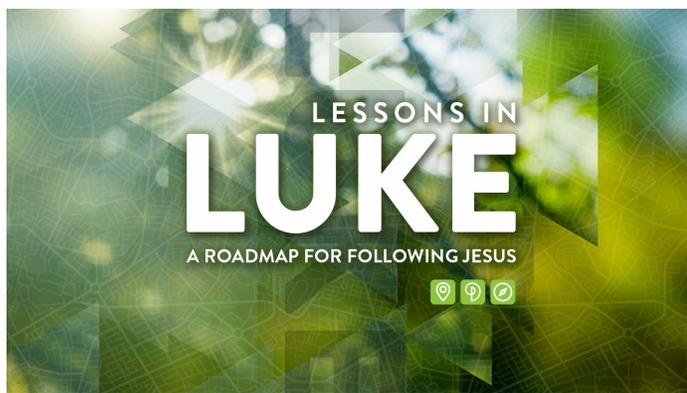


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Calling First Disciples

April 25, 2021

In this world it's the brightest and the best who get chosen. It's always been that way. But it's not that way in the world that God is unveiling in Jesus. The best and the brightest are welcome, sure, but in the Kingdom of God all are wanted, welcomed and loved. We are *all* enough.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 5:1-11, 27-32

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

While it's obvious that this story is about Jesus calling his disciples, it's not so obvious what Luke is really trying to tell us. To grasp Luke's point, we need to understand some things about first century Judaism. This story takes place in a region called The Galilee where Jewish tradition ran deep. Rabbis were at the top of the social ladder. They were the cultural elites. Highly educated, deeply respected, socially powerful. Rabbis were teachers, and in the first century Rabbis only recruited the brightest and the best to be their students. Every parent's dream was to have their little boy apprenticed to a prominent Rabbi. It was the first century equivalent of getting into Harvard Medical School. And when a Rabbi found the brightest and the best he would say, "Come, follow me."

But did you notice who Rabbi Jesus called? Not the brightest and the best. He called fishermen, people with little education or social status. These are the ones that other Rabbis had passed up because they weren't good enough. They didn't measure up. In fact, about the only people lower than fishermen in first century Jewish society were tax collectors. Not because they weren't bright or affluent, but because they were traitors. Levi was a Jew who worked for the Roman government, making his living by taxing his fellow countrymen. The Romans would have him disdained him and the Jews would have considered him a failure. But it was to Simon, a fisherman, and Levi, a tax collector, that Jesus said, "Come, follow me."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a time when you didn't feel "good enough."
- Jesus' choices in disciples likely surprised many people. Why was this such a culture shift?
- What good news can we glean from this story?
- How can we live into the promise that we are enough on a daily basis?

APPLICATION: This week, find a bible verse that reminds you how much God loves you. Read it daily. Put it on your mirror. Make intentional effort to live into that truth each day.