

# Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April

## Called to be ... a Disciple (Luke 5: 1-11)

### Welcome

What are you most afraid of?

### Word

#### **Read Luke 5:1-3:**

*One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret,<sup>[a]</sup> the people were crowding round him and listening to the word of God. <sup>2</sup> He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.*

1. What do you learn about Jesus from these first three verses? About the crowd? About Simon Peter?
2. When has it seemed like you were getting nowhere and you felt like giving up? Did you give up? What happened?
3. Peter was washing his nets and so was done for the day, but Jesus asked him to take him out in his boat. How do you feel when someone interrupts what you're doing or planning to do? God sometimes requires us to stop what we're doing and do something else – how does this make you feel? Can you think of an example?

## Read Luke 5:4-7:

*<sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.’*

*<sup>5</sup> 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.’*

*<sup>6</sup> When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup> So they signalled to 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.*

4. After his sermon, Jesus asked Peter to go out to deeper water and let down their recently cleaned nets to try to catch fish. Peter says: ‘Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything’. Peter was an experienced fisherman – Jesus was a carpenter! Is it harder to follow Jesus’ lead when we think we know better?
5. Peter goes on to say: ‘But because you say so I will let down the nets’. What does this tell you about Peter and his view of Jesus?
6. Have you ever, like Peter, taken a step of faith in the midst of your fear? What happened?
7. Why are verses 6 and 7 so descriptive? What is Luke trying to communicate to his readers and what is God trying to communicate to us with this extra detail?
8. Describe a time when Jesus showed you he was far greater than your greatest competence (like Peter’s fishing experience). How did this affect your faith?
9. What might get in our way of believing that, in our lives, Jesus is “able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine” (Eph 3:20)? What can we do with this problem?

## Read Luke 5:8-11:

*<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!' <sup>9</sup> For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup> 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.' <sup>11</sup> So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.*

10. If you had been a part of the crowd on that unusual morning, how do you think you might have reacted to the events in verse 5-10?
11. Peter's reaction to Jesus' "great catch" miracle is one of conviction (v8) and fear (v10). Why did Peter react this way instead of, say, praise?
12. Have you ever felt a great conviction by becoming aware of God's superior greatness or holiness? Describe.
13. Like Peter, have you ever felt the need to push Jesus away once you've realised your sinfulness? What does that look like in your life today?
14. Discuss these verses that might help with this response of pushing Jesus away:

*A little later in this same chapter of Luke, Jesus says to the Pharisees, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:32).*

*The Apostle Paul said, "Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person... But God demonstrates his love in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:7-8).*

15. What do you think Jesus was trying to do in his response to Peter?

*It is important to note that Jesus did not argue with Peter over the fact that he was a sinner. This was not news to Jesus! What is significant is that Jesus did not 'depart' from this sinful man. God changes and works through sinful people – the only kind of people available.*

16. Have you ever felt the comfort of Jesus when you've had fear?
17. Personal failure in an area of strength (they fished all night and caught nothing v5) often precedes an opportunity to obey God in a new way. How have you experienced this in your life?
18. Have you ever sensed Jesus providing you with purpose in his kingdom? If so, how would you describe your purpose?
19. How can we be involved with 'fishing for people' on our frontline? Serving them? Praying for them? Inviting them to church? Other?
20. Verse 11 says that Peter and friends "left everything and followed him [Jesus]". What does "leaving" mean for you today?
21. What is keeping you from leaving everything and following Jesus?
22. What part of the story in **Luke 5:1–11** surprised you most?

## Worship & Witness

- Pray for those on your frontline – the people you meet regularly in your daily life.
- Ask God to show you specifically what he wants you to do to follow him more closely
- We are all disciples of Jesus – all disciples of Jesus are on a journey, getting to know Jesus better (even if sometimes we take steps backward!) What might be your next step forward? What is Jesus calling you to do next?