

Life Group #3: His Amazing Power
Luke 5:1-11

Objectives: We want to see that Jesus' power is so amazing that he is worth following. We also want to learn that if we don't give ourselves opportunities to learn and experience Jesus it will be hard to trust him enough to follow him.

Launch Use your own words...

What are things in your life that can keep you from finding consistent time during the year to learn more about who Jesus is? (school, friends, parties, sports, video games, laziness, dating, student groups, bad time management, etc., or just don't see a need)

As we enter into Luke chapter 5, Jesus has started traveling and teaching about the good news of the kingdom of God. Simon (Peter) has already met Jesus, in fact Jesus visited Simon's house and healed his mother-in-law from a high fever.

In Luke chapter 5 Jesus comes, with a crowd following him, to visit Peter after a long night of fishing. We're going to read verses 1-11, but we're going to do it in chunks to help engage with how Simon experience's Jesus in the passage.

Explore

Read V 1-5

- **What point of Simon's workday is it?** (It's the end of the workday. They are washing/mending the nets from the night of fishing. It's also morning because they fish at night.)
- **What's Simon's attitude? Why?** (He's grumbly because he probably wants to head home after work. First he's having to hang around while Jesus uses his boat to speak, and now Jesus wants to go fishing after them not catching anything all night and at a worse time.)
- **What is the significance in Jesus asking Simon to go fishing?** (Fishing is Simon's profession. It's one thing for Jesus to teach on other things, but Simon is probably thinking if he didn't catch anything Jesus surely won't.)
- **Why do you think Simon goes along with it anyways?** (He's heard Jesus teach and seen him heal his mother-in-law, so he's seen enough to decide that it's probably worth going even though he's grumbly about it.)

Digging deeper->

- **If you were in Simon's shoes, would you go on the trip? Why?**
- **Given this context, are there more things that you think of which can keep you from opportunities to learn more about Jesus?** (Simon has two basic reasons we all have. Time, with other things he could be doing, and need, with Simon thinks Jesus doesn't have anything to offer with fishing.)

Read V 6-7

- **In your own words, what happens on the fishing trip?** (Focusing on v 6-7)
- **How much fish does it take to start to sink the boat?** (A lot. These boats are around 20-30 feet long. They have to be just absolutely covered in fish for it to be able to sink the boat.)
- **What do you think Jesus is thinking when Simon calls for the second boat?** (He's probably noticing that Simon is still focused on the fish instead of him. Whether it's about not catching fish earlier or catching so many now.)

Read V 8-10a (End of the first sentence in 10)

- **Why does Simon fall before Jesus' feet instead of dealing with the fish?** (He's now recognizing that Jesus has complete power over the situation. He recognizes that he is so unworthy of Jesus that falling to his knees (surrounded, and probably on top of, fish) is the only way he knows how to respond.
-> Also notice that Luke is using Peter now to show that his belief about Jesus is changing.)

Digging deeper->

- **This is the highest point of tension of the story. Do you think his reaction fits the situation? OR Is this how you would react?** (He is feeling so unworthy that he is fearful of Jesus and actually asks him to leave. Imagine Simon and Jesus staring into each other's eyes, with Simon on his knees covered in fish. Jesus is exhibiting some of his power and authority, and Simon's focus turns from the

fish to completely on Jesus. This leaves Simon in awe and with feelings of fear and helplessness.)

Read V 10b-11

- **What's Jesus' response in v10? What is amazing about it?** (Jesus reveals his character by speaking straight to Simon's heart condition. Then he follows it up with by saying forget fishing, let's go after the men.)
- **What's Simon Peter's response in v11 and how does he show how amazed he is?** (He leaves everything to follow Jesus. Notice that he is much more amazed by who Jesus is than what the call is.)

Digging deeper->

- **Do you think Simon leaves everything to follow Jesus if he doesn't first go on the fishing trip?** (You obviously can't be certain, but since he wasn't excited to go out fishing in the first place it is probably safe to say he wouldn't have. He needed to learn more about Jesus to be willing to follow.)
- **Why do you think Simon Peter is so attracted to following Jesus that he is willing to leave everything for it?** (After witnessing Jesus' incredible power, Simon will follow Jesus anywhere just to be a part of what he is doing. I'm sure Simon is attracted to catching men also, but Jesus probably could have just filled in the blank with anything there and Simon would have been in.)

Apply

- **This study could be called 'Amazing Fisherman' instead of 'Amazing Power'. Why is walking away from this study thinking that Jesus is the best fisherman ever the wrong thing to remember and apply?** (If that were the right application, then the proper response for Simon would have been to hire Jesus to work for him and watch the dollar bills flow. Instead, Simon saw the real character of Jesus and that he's worth following. How many times do we pay attention to what Jesus can do for us instead of why we should follow him!?)
- **What characteristic or quality of Jesus could help you follow him more closely if you knew more about it? OR What characteristic or quality would Jesus need to have for you to follow him?**
- **Simon needed to say yes to a small step of faith in order to get to a place where**

he could say yes to a big step of faith. What small steps of faith would be good for you to say yes to now to prepare you for bigger ones that may come? (Fall Retreat! Also read Bible every day, commit to life group every week, talk in life group, share your faith, etc. Endless possibilities. Depending on your study you could also ask about small challenges that people have taken in the past that helped them later.)

- **For AG ->** It may be helpful to ask 'What are some steps of faith that you have taken that you may have not been sure of at first but are glad you took them in the end?'

Announcements

Announce Barn Bash Sept. 22 & Fall Getaway Oct. 13-15. Continue to cast vision. Ask a younger student or co-leader (someone who hasn't shared personally yet) to share about Fall Retreat. Give more details for registration and logistics (we will provide rides, scholarships are available, etc.) You should have personally invited everyone by the end of this week.