



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 3 March 3, 2024
“Lifetime Invitation”

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we gather here today under your care and protection. Thank you for your lovingkindness that never fails us. We thank you for those with us, asking that you would guide our thoughts and actions to bring you glory. Strengthen us and fill us with your peace. May we love and serve each other as Jesus has shown us. Fill us with the Holy Spirit to do your good work on earth. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Luke 5:1-11 (NIV)

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

⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

⁵Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

⁶When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷So they signaled 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.

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

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INTRODUCTION

After Jesus was done preaching from Peter’s boat, he asked Peter to go fishing. Since Peter was a fisherman by trade, he knew this invitation to fish was pointless. In first century Palestine, you could not catch fish during the heat of the day because the fish would not come close to the surface of the lake. However, Peter had enough faith in Jesus to take that small leap of faith and the rest, as they say, is history. So what does this story mean for us?

When it comes to our faith journeys, we all have a next step. Maybe it’s to worship regularly, join a small group, serve, share your faith, or invest your resources in the Kingdom of God. Whatever your next step is, take it. You don’t know what hangs in the balance.

QUESTIONS

1. As a kid, what’s something you were afraid to try, but with a little bit of encouragement you did it? What motivated you to finally do it? How hesitant are you now to try things out of your comfort zone? Give an example.
2. Read Luke 5:1–11 (on page 1).
 - In verse 5, why do you think Peter agreed to let his nets back out? What might have been his expectation of what would happen?
 - In verse 8, why do you think Peter said what he did?
 - Does anything else in this passage stand out to you?
3. Have you ever intentionally disregarded something you felt God prompted you to do? If so, what happened?
4. Have you ever acted in response to God’s prompting? If so, what happened?
5. What’s your next step? What is God inviting you to do? What could help you take that next step?
6. What might hang in the balance of taking that next step?

FINAL APPLICATION

This week decide what your next step is and take it.