

## Our Mission:

To share Christ with the world  
and grow disciples for Jesus



## Loving God and Loving Neighbor as Ourselves

### **Background:**

In Jesus' day, a rabbi did not need to go out to recruit disciples. Young men would seek after a rabbi desiring to learn what the scholar might know. The rabbi in turn would thoroughly test them to see if they were capable of doing what he did. If the rabbi was convinced, they had what it takes, they were allowed to become a disciple. So, when these young fishermen are invited to become Jesus' disciples they leapt at the chance.

### **Theology Connection:**

At Christmas we speak of the incarnation, God entering our world and dwelling in our midst. This is a continuation of that same theological thread. Jesus is not a one-man show. Instead, in calling the disciples, we witness his choice to pour himself into them, an action that will culminate in the Lord's Supper. The ultimate goal is not simply to instruct them and make them more knowledgeable than their opponents, but to send them out to engage in the same mission and ministry that he came to fulfill.

### **Application:**

We are a part of a tradition of rich theological insight and deep respect for God's Holy and Living Word. Yet, at times, it would seem we are intimidated by this knowledge. We fear we do not know enough or that we are lacking in eloquence and therefore have nothing to share. In the call of these fishermen, we are reminded that God will use whoever is open to his call regardless of how unprepared we might feel. What is your experience of Jesus? Do you imagine that your words might be meaningful if shared with another?

### **The Text: Luke 5: 1-11**

<sup>1</sup>One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around 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 shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

<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 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.

<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.

## ADULT

In this text we hear of Jesus' recruitment of his disciples. While it was certainly a great honor to be called, it meant that they would have to step away from the life they had built for themselves. Does saying 'yes' to Jesus ever result in saying 'no' to other opportunities, even good opportunities? Do you think these disciples knew what they were signing up for? Has your faith ever resulted in a journey down a difficult and unexpected path?

## YOUTH

As we continue with Luke please read Luke 5:1-11

Jesus performed a miracle....

After fishing all night, the fisherman had caught nothing. After following Jesus instructions, they caught more than they could handle. Then they are asked to leave and follow Jesus. How easy would it be for you to leave everything behind to follow Jesus?

Has God called you into discipleship today?

What does that look like?

Let us pray: Dear God, Thank you for your miracles whether small or big. Please help us see your miracles in our everyday life. Please help us follow you and be the light for others. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

## CHILDREN'S

Read and Summarize

One day, Jesus was standing by a lake preaching to a crowd of people, He saw two boats on the seashore. Jesus got into a boat, which belonged to Simon, and continued to preach to the crowd of people from the shore. When He was done preaching, He told Simon to put his nets into the water to try and catch some fish. Simon had been fishing all night and not caught any fish, but he listened to Jesus anyway, and put the net into the water. When Simon did this, the net became so full of fish that the net began to break! He had to get help bringing the nets in. Simon was amazed by all the fish they had caught and was also embarrassed because he knew that he was a sinful man. He told Jesus to leave because he knew that he was sinful and didn't deserve all of the fish. Jesus told Simon and the other men that they would become fishers of men. When Simon and the other men heard this, they parked their boats and left everything they had and followed Jesus!

1. What did Jesus ask Simon to do?
2. What happened when Simon let the net down?
3. What did Jesus tell the men at the end of the story?
4. What does it mean to be fishers of men?

Pray:

Dear God,

Thank You for giving us all such an important job! Help us to spread Your love with everyone we meet! Amen.