

NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

Supplemental Texts

Ex. 3:5-11; Judges 6:15; Job 42:6; Isa. 6:1-8; Jer. 1:6; Matt. 4:18-22; 13:1-2; 14:27; 19:29-30; Mark 1:16-20; 3:7-9; 4:1; Luke 4:38-39, 5:28, 30-32; 6:13-16; 7:36-50; 8:51; 9:23-28, 57-62; 14:25-35; 15:1-32; John 21:6

Study Summary

This passage begins a whole new section of Luke in which Jesus forms a new community around the mission of the Kingdom of God. The section begins with the calling of Jesus' first disciples, in which we see the proper response to an encounter with the King of the Kingdom: recognizing His "authority and identity", "recognizing one's sinfulness", "and leaving everything to follow Him." This passage reveals that when Jesus calls us, He calls us to know Him and to make Him know.

Historical & Theological Background

Historical: In Jesus' day "fishing businesses were conducted on the Sea of Galilee by fishermen organized in guilds." They were often "hard workers, crude, and "rough in speech and in their treatment of others." Some "owed their own ships, took hirelings into their service, and sometimes joined to form companies." "Night was the best time" to fish, when a drag net could be used "in deep water." During the day a casting net was used on the shore or in shallow water.

In the Bible the word "disciple" is found almost exclusively in the Gospels and Acts. It refers to "someone who follows another person or another way of life and who submits himself to the discipline (teaching) of that leader." "A person became a disciple as he sought out a teacher and followed him and his principles." "Jewish disciples would follow their master around, often literally imitating him," the goal being to "someday to become masters, or rabbis, themselves, and to have their own disciples." But the Jesus movement was different. "In the Gospels, Jesus creates His own group of disciples by *calling* individuals to follow Him. He also calls disciples that do not seem to qualify for the task." "In the development of the Jesus movement, the term disciple becomes synonymous with those who believe and confess that Jesus is the Messiah." The disciples *remain* following Jesus, continuing to learn from Him only. This continues to be true for His disciples today as we join Him in the mission of the Kingdom; it is a *daily* denial of the self in service of the King.

DISCUSSION PRIMER

Read Luke 5:1-11 and consider your own call to become a disciple of Jesus. What people and events were involved in you coming to know Jesus' true identity? What misunderstandings or lies were overcome for faith and trust to come alive in you? Come to group ready to share and celebrate these salvation stories.

TEXTUAL INVESTIGATION

LUKE 5:1-11

Big Idea: Jesus Calls Us to Know Him and Make Him Known

Fallen Condition Focus: Impersonal Knowledge and Misunderstanding

- Why are the people crowding around Jesus (v. 1)?
- Who is Simon? Why does Jesus get into his boat (v. 2)? (See Luke 4:38-39)
- Why does Simon respond as he does when Jesus asks him to let out the nets to catch fish (v.4-5)? (See HTB)
- What is the result of Simon's obedience (v. 6-7)?
- Why does Simon Peter react to this miracle as he does (v. 8-9)? How is this similar to Moses' response to God in Ex. 3:5-6? (Compare Peter's address in v. 5 and v. 8)
- How does Jesus respond to Simon Peter's fear (v. 10)? What two things does Jesus say?
- What do Peter and the others do in response to Jesus' call (v. 11)?
- Read Isaiah 6:1-8 and compare Isaiah's call with Peter's. How are they different? Similar?
- How are Peter and his partners different from the crowd by the end of the story?

Gospel Connection: Read Eph. 2:8-10. How is our salvation and our participation in the mission of God related?

TEXTUAL INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- What keeps people from seeing Jesus as Lord? From recognizing their sinfulness (v. 8)?
- Considering Peter already "knew" Jesus before his call (4:38-39), how did God reveal to you the true identity of Jesus and your need to respond with repentance and faith?
- What has it "cost" you to follow Jesus? Why do some fail to follow? (See Luke 9:57-62)
- How are you continuing to know Jesus as you grow in your faith? What habits/practices could help as You follow Him?
- Why is it so important to not only listen to Jesus, but also obey Him? How often are you putting truth into practice in your own life? (Compare Peter and the crowd)
- What things, if any, do you still need to "leave behind" to follow Jesus more faithfully?
- Since becoming a follower of Jesus, how has God reoriented your life to be

REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read **Luke 5:1-11** and explore together what the passage reveals about:

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| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ? |
| 2) The fallen human condition? | 5) Our obedience to Christ? |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ? | 6) Our relationship to others |

TEXTUAL APPLICATION: "So, what now?"

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

- a command to obey? • a beauty to behold? • a mission to fulfill?
- a promise to claim? • a truth to believe? • an example to follow?
- a sin to repent of? • a service to render? • a person to tell?