

“The Liveliest Catch”
Luke 5:1-11
Small Group Discussion Guide

OPENING QUESTIONS (get everyone involved in discussion):

- Imagine Jesus is coming for the first time – it’s 2018 and you’re at your current job, home, community etc. What would Jesus say to you? I.e. He told Peter “Come with me, I will make you a fisher of men.” How would this conversation go if it were you Jesus was talking to?

TRANSITION and BACKGROUND: We’re in the fifth week of our **series** called “Here I am.” We’re looking at several key characters in the Bible, to see how we can find our place in what God is doing in the world. This week Andy Boutcher preached, and he has us looking at the life Simon Peter.

Simon was a fisherman by trade on the Sea of Galilee. Being a fisherman in that region means he made better than average money. Most of the surrounding area was agrarian, with wheat and grains being the staple food, and fish being the main source of protein. So, as a good fisherman, there was always a demand for his product. Still, it was a tough business – and expensive. He would’ve had to buy and maintain a boat and all the gear.

READ Luke 5:1-3

- What do you learn about Jesus from these first three verses?
- About the crowd?
- About Simon Peter?
- 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 react when Jesus interrupts your schedule or goals?

READ Luke 5:4-7

- After his sermon, Jesus asked Peter to go out to deeper water and let down their recently cleaned nets to try to catch fish. In the first half of verse 5, what was Peter’s initial reaction? Why do you think he reacted this way?
- How hard do you find it to submit your greatest area of competence to Jesus’ authority?
- In the second half of verse 5, we see a different reaction. What does this tell you about Peter and his view of Jesus?
- Have you ever, like Peter, taken a step of faith in the midst of your fear? What happened?
- 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?
- Describe a time when Jesus showed you he was far greater than your greatest competence. How did this build your faith?
- 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

- Peter’s reaction to Jesus’ “great catch” miracle as one of conviction (v8) and fear (v10). Why did Peter react this way instead of, say, praise?
- Have you ever felt a great conviction by becoming aware of God’s superior greatness or holiness? Describe.
- Like Peter, have you ever felt the compulsion to push Jesus away once you’ve realized your sinfulness? What does that look like in your life today?
- 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).
- What do you think Jesus was trying to do in his response to Peter?
- Have you ever felt the comfort of Jesus when you’ve had fear? Discuss.
- Have you ever sensed Jesus providing you with purpose in his kingdom? If so, how would you describe your purpose?¹
- If this sounds too lofty, how can we be involved with people in their reconciliation to God right where we work or “play”? Serving them? Praying for them? Inviting them to Alpha? Other? Discuss!
- Verse 11 says that Peter and friends “left everything and followed him [Jesus]”. What do you think “leaving” means for us today?
- What is keeping you from metaphorically leaving everything and following Jesus?

- **PRAYER: If this passage raised any issue or you have others on your mind, please take turns sharing, and we will pray together.**

¹ Note: Other than prayer, you can discover your purpose by 1) trying out service roles in the church and/or 2) taking the Thriving in Ministry course that will be coming this April.