

Following Jesus

Goal: To understand that the Christian life isn't simply a call to intellectually acknowledge some abstract truths about Jesus, but rather, it is a call to have a change of priority and lifestyle as we follow him.

Openers:

- What is a decision that you've made that actually changed your life?
- How is your life different because of that decision? (*It's OK to spend some time on this and ask follow up questions as people share*).

Scripture:

Luke 5:1-11 (NIV) - Jesus Calls His First Disciples

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret,^[a] the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. 2 He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 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.

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

5 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."

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

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

Footnotes:

- a. [Luke 5:1](#) That is, the Sea of Galilee

Digging Deeper: Observations & Interpretations

- Have someone read through the story out loud again. This time through, pause after each paragraph and ask a different Core member to say out loud what they think is going through Simon's mind at that moment.
- If this story was all you knew about Jesus, how would you describe him?
- For Simon, James, & John, how do you think their lives changed when they "pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him"?
- What do you think motivated these 3 guys to take such a radical action?

(Don't let people get away with quick answers on this - actually look at the text and see what on earth could compel them to do something like that!)

Applications

- Simon's relationship with Jesus goes through a lot of changes in this story. At various points he is interested, skeptical, amazed, afraid, and devoted. Which Simon do you most identify with at this point in your life? Why?
- What would it look like for YOU to pull your boat up on the shore, leave everything, and follow Jesus? *(This could be something you've already done, or something you might do in the future)*
- How do you think your life would be different if you did that? *(Or, how has your life been different since you've done that?)*