



Week 5: "The Gang's All Here"

KEY POINT

The fishermen see and hear Jesus as Lord, and follow him as disciples. Jesus is revealed to be more than a great teacher and healer, but a miracle worker who can command even the waters of creation. The new disciples do not necessarily know what they have gotten themselves into. They, like many followers of Christ since then, are brought into trust and belief in Jesus before they realize the impact of following the Son of God.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 5:1-11
(Psalm 90:14-17)



OPENING PRAYER

Begin your time together with this, or another, prayer:

READ

Luke 5:1-11

ABOUT THE STORY

We read this story in the season of Epiphany—a time when the church reflects on how God is revealed to us in Jesus. Jesus moves from his prophetic declaration in his hometown to the Sea of Galilee, where he miraculously fills the nets of Simon, James, and John.

From the previous stories in the Gospel of Luke, we already know that Jesus is a powerful healer and speaker. He has cast out unclean spirits and cured Simon's mother-in-law of a fever, yet so far, only the demons know who he truly is (Luke 4:31-41). The crowds recognize him as a teacher and prophet, but no one yet knows what he has come to do for the world. It seems the miraculous stories and songs around his birth have been forgotten or dismissed as an idle tale. He is just an uneducated carpenter from Nazareth; what could he do?

In today's story, Jesus' words take on action. He becomes more than a healer and a teacher; he is revealed to be able to command even the fish and the seas. For a town on a seacoast, this is overwhelming power—a power unlike what they have seen in any other teachers and healers. It is Jesus' power over creation that causes Simon to fall to his knees, declaring that he is too sinful to be in Jesus' presence (Luke 5:8). Simon takes on the words of the prophet Isaiah: "I am a man of unclean lips" (Isaiah 6:5).

Yet, Jesus is unconcerned with Simon's sinfulness. He offers Simon the words that God has said, through teachers and prophets, over and over again: "Do not be afraid." Simon's faith, his willingness to serve and assist Jesus in his teaching, and even his self-awareness of his own failings mean that he is exactly the kind of follower Jesus is looking for.

Today, Jesus is revealed as master and lord of creation, a man of knowledge, compassion, and strength. This revelation is so compelling that three men, faced with the greatest fishing success of their career, will walk away from everything they have known and choose to follow Jesus.

SHARE

- Think back to elementary and high school years—grades K through 12. What would you say was your greatest success in those years? What was the moment when you felt most proud of yourself, most admired, or most lucky? How did others react to your success? Did it change you in any way?
- Jesus reminds Simon Peter to be who Jesus called him to be: a disciple and apostle, sent to change the world (John 21:1-14). When has your life been steered in a direction you did not necessarily choose?

PRAY

Pray this or another prayer aloud together:

Jesus, long ago you were revealed as Master and Lord of the world. Like the first disciples, we bow in awe of who you are. Yet you came not to command our fear but to release us to freedom, to call us into a life that follows you. Open our eyes to see the ways you work miracles in us. Amen.

BLESS

Share this verbal blessing with one another: “Go forth and make disciples of all nations, teaching them about the love of God.”

FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION AT HOME:

- Take two minutes each morning and evening to breathe in and out rhythmically, mentally repeating Jesus’ words “Do not be afraid” with each inhale and exhale.
- When you are particularly stressed this week, take a moment to pause, straighten your back, take a cleansing breath, and look around you. There may be someone in need of your help who you might have missed if you did not slow down.

