



Good News

for all people.

The Gospel of Luke

Week 4 LEADER Discussion Questions

Week of 9/18/22

Text: Luke 5:1-11, 27-32, and 6:12-13

Yes, we are jumping around a bit this week. The common thread in these verses is the calling of Peter, Levi, and the rest of the Twelve Disciples. There are multiple themes (e.g., *the unlikeliness of those Jesus selects, the proper response to Jesus's call, the unifying call to a singular mission, the importance of prayer, etc.*) and these questions attempt to surface at least some of them.

Icebreaker: What is the most important mission or call to action that you've been a part of? Was/Is it something you did alone or as part of a larger team? (Or, maybe you feel like this is lacking in your life? If so, feel free to admit that.)

This question is inspired by the call Jesus places on his followers to a common mission...to be fishers of men and to not "call the righteous but sinners to repentance." This mission from Jesus is something we should feel caught up into as well as his followers today. There are other missions we might be a part of, though, in our jobs or homes, for example. This question may be helpful in revealing what motivates or excites people in your group. It can also help you discover whether someone feels like they lack purpose.

1. Using verses 1-4, imagine being in Peter's position—you're tired and maybe frustrated by an unproductive effort at the very thing you're supposedly an expert at and rely on for income. How would you summarize or describe Peter's response to Jesus in verse 5?

Peter shows a combination of knee-jerk reluctance—"Master, we toiled all night and took nothing!"—and submission, humility, or possibly even faith—"But at your word..." We might imagine being in a similar position and not responding as well! How easy would it have been for Peter to be annoyed or even offended that a carpenter would try to tell him how to fish when that's Peter's profession!

2. Verses 6-10 describe the miraculous catch and response! In verse 8, what is he realizing about Jesus and himself?

Peter realizes his unworthiness to even be in Jesus' presence. Peter is simultaneously blown away by Jesus's greatness and his own fallen nature—his own sinfulness.

Application: Have you ever had this kind of "awakening" to who Jesus is and who you are in comparison to him? If so, share what happened.

We can't replicate what happened here, but these kinds of encounters with Jesus can and do still happen. For example, someone may be overwhelmed by the nighttime sky (see Psalm 8) or be moved by the way God's Spirit stirs them in worship. Maybe the Lord has been at work in a person's life in a slow but steady way. These aren't experiences we can manufacture, but God reveals himself in ways that can give us a greater awareness of how great he is and how unworthy we are of him.

3. Reading these first 11 verses, what was the purpose of the miracle? In other words, what mission is inspiring the miracle Jesus performs?

This is a key theme this week—that the call of God was for these disciples to join in God’s mission. In this case, it’s described as “catching men.” Jesus has “caught” Peter so that Peter would in-turn catch others.

Application: Do you think this same mission applies to us today as well? Why?

We don’t want to assume everyone realizes that God’s mission is still just as relevant today. We could point to well-known passages like the Great Commission from Matthew 28 or Jesus’s instructions in Acts 1:8. Jesus is speaking to his disciples in those passages, but the nature of those statements tells us that this was a global mission that would continue beyond their lives as each new generation needs to hear the gospel message.

4. Verses 27-29 describe Levi’s response to Jesus. What action does Levi take that reflects Jesus’s mission?

Levi holds a feast for Jesus and invites many of his friends. He throws a party with people he should be ashamed to be around (according to the social conventions of the day). This reflects Jesus’s mission as he states in verses 31-32. This is a collection of the “sick” and sinners.

Application: Who are the “tax collectors and sinners” of our day? How do we associate with, and even welcome, similar kinds of people?

There are too many options here to mention and our responses can depend in-part on our own unique perspective and background. We can associate and welcome these people by getting to know them, spending time with them, and treating them as fellow image-bearers of God. It could be helpful here to think as specifically as possible.

5. Consider Jesus’s reply to the religious authorities in verses 30-32. What do you see in these verses that reveals the heart and mission of Jesus?

Like the previous question, we see that Jesus’s heart for the lost is not limited by social conventions. Neither is he concerned with being made unclean by being in proximity with people who were far from God. Jesus’s heart is for those very people who seem like a lost cause.

Application: What do you think it looks like for us to engage in this same kind of ministry?

Our day is different than Jesus’s, but we might think of people who we would not normally cross paths with in our jobs or social gatherings. These may be people we have to go out of our way to get to or to make contact with. They could be people we find it difficult to be around, but we choose to connect with them so that they can experience the love and good news of Jesus.

6. In 6:12-16, what does Jesus do to prepare for the calling of his twelve disciples? Why do you think Jesus did this?

He spends all night in prayer. Jesus knew the importance of the decision and may have felt compelled to seek the Father’s wisdom and discernment. We don’t know all the details about what he was praying at 2:00am, but what’s implied here is a deep commitment to do the Father’s will.

Application: If prayer was this important for Jesus, what should that tell us about its importance for our lives? How would you describe the role of prayer in your life?

It could be good to assess our own attitude toward and habits of prayer. Maybe this example from Jesus can nudge us into a deeper commitment to pray.

Week 4 Final Thought:

Fishermen, a tax collector, and other unlikely figures were handpicked as Jesus’s closest disciples to carry out God’s mission. We can be encouraged in our own

feelings of inadequacy. As commentator Darrell Bock writes, “Though these disciples come from various backgrounds, they all have one thing in common: They do not come because they deserve God’s gift; they come because they know that they need his grace.”