

The Call to Follow Jesus - 1

Before you begin, please pause for prayer, silent or verbalized, asking God to guide your reflection and that of the group for the following study...

Directions:

- 1. Ask one person to read the following text slowly as the rest follow along.**
- 2. In a couple of minutes of silent reflecting, each participant should be listening for what the Holy Spirit might be saying to them, is there a phrase, a verse, a question, or an idea that is striking you as interesting or important? Underline it.**
- 3. Ask another person to read the passage again and repeat step 2.**
- 4. Then begin the discussion with the questions below...**

Luke 5:1-11 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

5 Once while Jesus^[a] was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God,² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and 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 way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning 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 that they began to sink.⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken;¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Questions for exploring the passage:

1. What struck you during the reading of the passage?
2. Ask one person to tell the story in his/her own words without interruption. Did you hear anything new?
3. Jesus is not only calling the four disciples, He is giving them their first lessons about being His followers. What are some of those lessons He is teaching them?

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4. Which of the lessons do you like to learn more about personally?

5. The Gospel of John tells us that “God so loved the world....” How do you see the love of God displayed in this story?

6. If you are a group of church leaders, with the responsibility for leading a congregation, what are some Christ-follower lessons do you think the people in the congregation might need to learn?

7. Take a few moments of silence to ask, “God, what might you be wanting to teach me in this encounter with Jesus?”