

CALLED... OUT OF YOUR BOAT

“Anyone who serves me must follow me.” John 12:26



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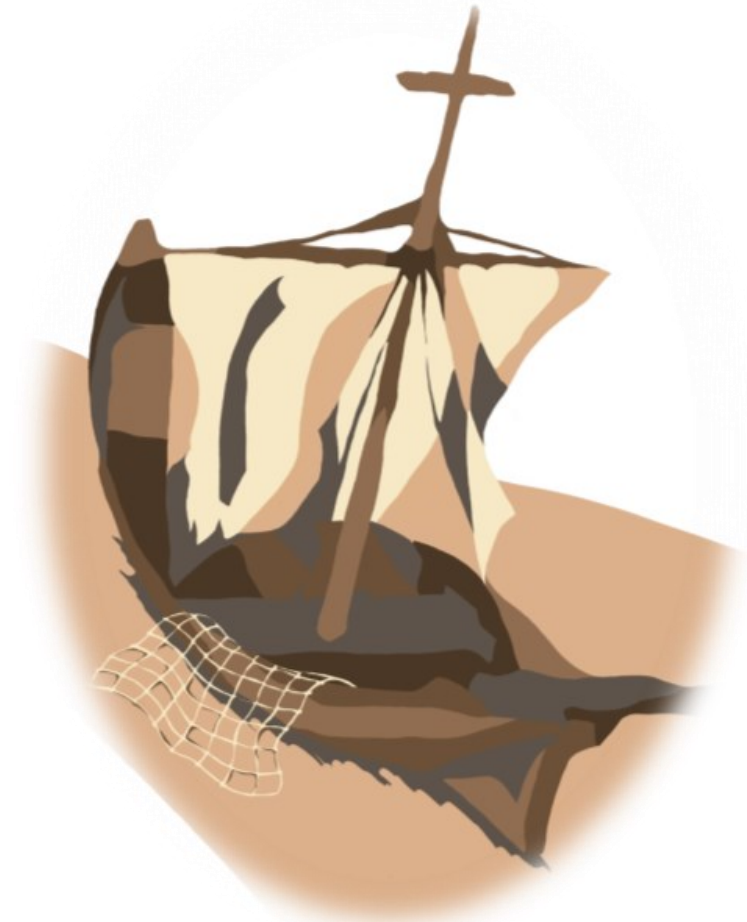
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P. O. Box 29495

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317-646-5067



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**DISCUSSION
BOOKLET**

DAY 1
CALLED TO FOLLOW
Luke 5:1-11

Our theme verse for the week is from John 12:26. Jesus said, ***“Anyone who serves me must follow me. And where I am, my servant will also be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”***

This week we will study three Gospel lessons and Peter’s journey to follow Jesus. In these three stories we will see how Jesus called Peter out of his fishing boat to join Him in His mission.



We will be talking a lot about how we are also called to follow Jesus and love one another.

Our story begins in the gospel of John chapter 1. Andrew and another disciple were following John the Baptist. One day they

References

Images



Bible References

New-International-Readers-Version-NIRV-Bible/

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

Day 1

- Jesus wants us to trust Him when He asks us to do something we don't understand.
- The presence of the Holy Spirit reveals our sinfulness and need of a Savior.
- What does Jesus want us to leave behind to follow Him?
- How can we be fishers of men (people)?

Day 2

- Jesus wants to build our faith so we will come to Him in any circumstance.
- Jesus gives us the courage to do the hard things.
- Jesus is our life preserver. He promises to never leave us.
- We worship Jesus who is the source of everything that is good.

Day 3

- Jesus is with us always! He wants to be with us in the good times, bad times, special times, and in ordinary times every day.
- When we fail, Jesus is always near to remind us of our calling. He will re-invite us back to His mission.
- Peter was excited and jumped out of his boat. We need to jump at the privilege to follow Jesus.

heard John refer to Jesus as the "Lamb of God." At that time, they started following Jesus.

Andrew immediately finds his brother Simon, who we know as Peter, and tells him, "We have found the Messiah, which means Christ." And he brought Simon to Jesus."

"...Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Peter."



The story continues in Luke 5 where Jesus is preaching the Word of God in the synagogues of Judea. Crowds of people were pressing around Him.

Andrew and Peter were fisherman in the area where Jesus was

teaching. They had been fishing all night but caught nothing. They were cleaning their nets.

Jesus saw their boats near the shore and decided to get in one of the boats which belonged to Peter. He asked Peter to take the



boat out a little from the shore so the people could hear him better. Jesus then taught the crowds the Word of God.

When he finished speaking, he turned to Peter and said, “Go out into deep water. Let down the nets so you can catch some fish.”

Jesus is now calling them to put their nets back in the water after they wasted a full night not catching any fish. They are tired! They already cleaned their nets and now they will have to clean them again.



You can hear Peter’s frustration when he answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”



To their surprise, as soon as they let down their nets, they caught a huge number of fish! So many that their nets were at the point of breaking. They had to signal their partners James and John who were in another boat to help them. They all worked together to pull in their boat load of fish.

Day 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you remember another time Jesus surprised the disciples with a boat load of fish?
2. Why did Peter jump out of the boat?
3. Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times “Do you love me?” Why did it hurt Peter?
4. Why did Jesus tell Peter to take care of his sheep?

Day 3 REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Like Peter, are you eager to spend time with Jesus?
2. What are some ordinary times in your life where you knew Jesus loved you and was with you?
3. What mission is Jesus inviting you, or re-inviting you, to join Him in?

If your Gathering does not have Day 3 Discussion Group time, we encourage you to work on these questions at home.

**Day 3
BIBLE VERSE**

*“Peter, do you love Me?” “Yes Lord, you know that I love You.”
Jesus said, “Take care of My sheep.”* **John 21:16 (NIRV)**

**LET’S THINK
ABOUT IT**

- **Jesus is with us always! He wants to be with us in the good times, bad times, special times, and in ordinary times every day.**
- **When we fail, Jesus is always near to remind us of our calling. He will re-invite us back to His mission.**
- **Peter was excited and jumped out of his boat. We need to jump at the privilege to follow Jesus.**

When Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees. “Go away from me, Lord!” he said. “I am a sinful man!”

Seeing this miracle and being in the presence of Jesus, Peter became aware of his sinful heart. Faced with his sin, he didn’t think he could be close to Jesus. But Jesus was already close to him. He was sitting right there in his boat.

Jesus loved Peter and He said to him **“Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men instead of fish!”** **(Luke 5:10).**

Peter knew he was a sinner, but Jesus still called him out of his boat. He called him from being a fisherman to become a fisher of men (people).



The Bible says after they pulled their boats up on shore, they left everything to follow Jesus. **Like Peter, we are also being called out of just living for ourselves to live our lives for Jesus.**

**Day 1
BIBLE VERSE**

“So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed Him.” **Luke 5:11 (NIRV)**

LET'S THINK ABOUT IT

- **Jesus wants us to trust Him when He asks us to do something we don't understand.**
- **The presence of the Holy Spirit reveals our sinfulness and need of a Savior.**
- **What does Jesus want us to leave behind to follow Him?**
- **How can we be fishers of men (people)?**

**Day 1
DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS**

1. **Why did Jesus chose to teach from Peter's boat?**
2. **What happened when Peter obeyed Jesus and let down his nets in the deep water?**
3. **So, what does it mean to be part of Jesus' work in the world?**



He answered, "Yes, Lord. You know that I love you." Jesus answered, "Take care of my sheep."

Jesus spoke to him a third time. He asked, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter felt bad because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He answered, "Lord, you know all things. You know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

Jesus was reinviting Peter to be part of His mission to the world. Later, Peter would preach a sermon and 3,000 people would come to believe in Jesus that day.



Just like Peter we can use the spiritual gifts God has given us to be part of Jesus' mission to the world.

Jesus had a fire on the shore with fish already cooking. He was making breakfast for them. Jesus told them to bring some of the fish they had caught.



Peter climbed back in the boat and helped the other disciples haul in the great catch of fish. They had caught 153 fish and again, their nets didn't break! The disciples dared not ask who He was because they knew "it is the Lord!"

In our story Jesus invited the disciples to join him for breakfast, an ordinary thing to do. Jesus also invites us into everyday fellowship with Him.

When Jesus and the disciples had finished eating, Jesus spoke to Peter. He asked, him,



"Do you love me more than these others do?"

"Yes, Lord," he said. "You know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Again, Jesus asked, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Day 1 REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Like Peter, do you ever feel like you have a sinful heart when you are in the presence of God?
2. How can you be a fisher of men (people)?
3. What are things we are willing to leave behind to follow Jesus?

DAY 2
CALLED TO STEP OUT
(Matthew 14:22-32)

Today we will learn what happens when Jesus calls Peter to **step out** of the boat in the middle of a big storm. He invites Peter to come to Him walking on the water to build His disciple's faith, especially Peter's. There will be times when Jesus will call us to do something that is hard to do. When we do hard things, it builds our faith.



In Matthew 14, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat after a couple long days of teaching and healing people. He had them go on ahead of him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.

Then, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. He needed to be alone with His Father.

Later that night Jesus came down from the mountain after praying. The boat was already a long way from land when a great storm arose. The disciples were being pounded by the waves.



But he didn't do very well fishing. He and the other disciples fished all night, but they caught nothing. This is a good lesson for all of us. Apart from Jesus, there is nothing of value that we can do.

“Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore. But the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, “Friends, don't you have any fish?” “No,” they answered. He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat. There you will find some fish.” When they did, they could not pull the net into the boat because there were so many fish.””



Can you believe it! This same thing happened twice. And at first, they still didn't recognize it was Jesus. But one of the disciples realized who it was and said to Peter, “It is the Lord!”....

As soon as Peter heard “It is The Lord”, he **jumped out** of the boat and swam to Jesus while the other disciples followed in the boat.” He couldn't wait for the boat to get to shore!



DAY 3
CALLED TO JUMP OUT
(John 21:1-17)

Our story is from John 21:1-17. It takes place after Peter denied Jesus three times. Jesus already died on the cross, rose from the dead, and appeared to His disciples twice. The disciples had lost their leader and didn't know what else to do.



One day Peter and several of the disciples were together by the Sea of Galilee. Peter said to the others he was going fishing. They decided that was a good idea and followed him.

Peter went back to what he knew best, back to the same boat Jesus called him out of. Back to what he thought he was good at — fishing. It was comfortable!



“Shortly before dawn, Jesus went out to the disciples. He walked on the water. They saw him and were terrified. “It’s a ghost!” they said. And they cried out in fear.”

“Right away Jesus called out to them, “Be brave! It is I. Don’t be afraid.””

““Lord, is it you?” Peter asked. “If it is, call me to come to you on the water.””



““Come,” Jesus said. So, Peter stepped out of the boat. He walked on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid. He began to sink. He cried out, “Lord! Save me!””

“Right away Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “Your faith is so small!” he said. “Why did you doubt me?””

“When they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those in the boat worshiped Jesus. They said, “You really are the Son of God!””





Jesus knows we are weak, but He still calls us to step out of our boat and into His mission.

Like Peter, sometimes our troubles seem too big, but Jesus is the One who is able to give us peace in the middle of our troubles. Jesus calls us to step out in faith and put our lives in His hands.

Day 2 BIBLE VERSE

“Lord, is it You?” Peter asked. “if it is, tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” Jesus said.

Matthew 14:28-29

LET'S THINK ABOUT IT

- Jesus wants to build our faith so we will come to Him in any circumstance.
- Jesus gives us the courage to do the hard things.
- Jesus is our life preserver. He promises to never leave us.
- We worship Jesus who is the source of everything that is good.

Day 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Prayer was important to Jesus. Why is it important to us?
2. Did Jesus call Peter to come to Him on a warm sunny day?
3. What happened when Peter took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the wind and waves around him?
4. What did Peter do when he began to sink and how did Jesus respond?
5. How did the disciples respond when Jesus got in the boat and calmed the storm?

Day 2 REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How might God call you to step out and do something that is hard?
2. What helps us keep our eyes on Jesus?
3. What happens when our eyes are off Jesus and on ourselves or our troubles?
4. Who do you cry out to when you need help?

There will be no discussion group on Day 3. The Day 3 Reflection Questions can be found in the next section.

You can take the booklet home today.