

CLOSER LOOK

A LIFEGROUP STUDY ON THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE



Ordinary People

The Call of Christ to Ordinary People
Luke 5:1-11 (Abridged from sermon on Mark 1)
Oct 2, 2021
Lewis Center Campus

MAIN POINT

God uses ordinary people to accomplish his extraordinary purposes.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

If you were to choose people to share the good news, what traits would you look for in disciples? Why?

Who has personally impacted your faith? Why do you think the Lord chose them?

If we were to choose disciples to spread a message, most likely, many of us would choose people who had influence already. But Jesus doesn't seek out influential or important people. He uses ordinary people to accomplish his extraordinary purposes.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says about a particular topic.

Have a volunteer read Luke 5:1-11

Why might Jesus have asked Simon Peter to repeat something he had just done unsuccessfully?

If you were Simon Peter or any of the others, what would you have thought about Jesus' instructions? What does Simon Peter's reaction to Jesus reveal about his choice of disciples?

Why did Jesus perform this particular miracle in the middle of His healing and teaching? What was he demonstrating?

In Luke 5:8, what was Simon Peter feeling? What does Simon Peter say about who he is? How do you relate?

How did Jesus respond to Simon Peter's expression of guilt in v8 (v10)? Why does Jesus tell him not to fear?

What about Simon Peter's response made him a perfect candidate to disciple under Jesus?

Read verses 10-11 again. What did the fishing represent? What do you think made the men leave behind everything they knew to follow Jesus?

Who was around when Jesus chose his first disciples? Why might he have narrowed in on the fishermen? What was different about them?

When the disciples fished on their own efforts, they had very little success. When Jesus was involved they had overflowing nets. What could this picture tell us about the importance of inviting Jesus into our ministry and his power to save?

Jesus was surrounded by great crowds who had come actively seeking his teaching, yet he narrowed in on fishermen who were just going about their work. Jesus sat down in Simon Peter's boat without really asking and then told them to repeat something they had already done unsuccessfully. Still, Simon Peter was willing to do what he said. Jesus looks for disciples who are willing and obedient. Jesus demonstrated his power and ability to provide abundantly more than the fishermen were able to gather on their own. Up against the miraculous goodness of Christ, Simon Peter recognizes his sinfulness and in his shame he wants to push Jesus away. In response, Jesus tells him not to fear because their lives are about to change drastically. The overflowing boat in this passage is an example of Jesus' power to use us mightily when we obey Him. You, like Peter, may have reservations about the calling Jesus has for your life, but if you submit to Him, God CAN use you to advance His kingdom.

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says about a particular topic.

Have a volunteer (or volunteers) read Luke 5:27-32

Who did Jesus tell to follow him in this passage? What reactions do we see from others?

Why would Jesus choose Levi (and the other ordinary disciples) over someone like a Pharisee?

How did Jesus respond when he was questioned about choosing Levi? How can we guard ourselves from not becoming self-righteous and sufficient post-salvation?

Jesus chose another unlikely disciple in Levi, the tax collector. The Pharisees and scribes objected to Jesus choosing a sinner. Jesus responds stating that he came to call sinners to repentance.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scriptures apply directly to their lives.

How does knowing that God calls and uses ordinary people encourage you in your relationship with Jesus and in your ministry?

The disciples left everything to follow Jesus. Is there anything that God is pressing on you to do right now that may mean changes in your life? (Think: jobs, relationships, place of residence, etc.) What have you already left behind?

What hesitations might you have in obeying Christ's call on your life?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Take a moment to ask your group if there are any prayer requests.

PRAY WITH YOUR GROUP

Pray over your group's prayer requests, along with the following prayer:

Lord, thank you that you choose ordinary people and come for us sinners. We may not have a lot to offer but we come to you with willing hearts. Help us to remain humble and submitted to you so that we may be witnesses to your mighty work in our lives.

LP PRAYER POINTS

1825

* 1825 LG's

Missions

* LG's to serve faithfully during upcoming term

* Upcoming Trips to India and Argentina (both in October)

Lifegroups

* Please be praying specifically for the following Bridgegroups by name... DivorceCare, Grief Group, Marriage Enrichment, Thriving in Love & Money, To Be Told, Grandparenting Matters, Forgiven and Set Free (Post Abortive Group), Single/Single Again

Lifepoint Kids

* As the school year starts that families and kids would keep Jesus in focus in the midst of a busy season.

* We still have a number of leader/ staff needs in Lifepoint Kids

LP REMINDERS

- Lifeteam Fair - October 2, 9, & 16
- Starting Point - October 9
- Child Dedication - October 16
- CORE - October 16
- Trunktober - October 23
- Discovering Life - October 23
- Baptisms - October 23

MEMORIZE

“...I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.” Luke 5:32

COMMENTARY

Luke 5

5:1-3. This chapter of Luke illustrates responses of those who acknowledge Jesus and accept His authority. The first example features a defining moment for Simon Peter, James, and John as they responded to Jesus' call by leaving everything to follow Him.

5:4. While addressing the crowd, Jesus had focused on teaching. When He finished speaking, He turned His attention to individuals. Jesus instructed Simon to move the vessel into deep water and there to lower the nets for a catch. At first glance we might think Jesus planned to repay Simon for use of the craft by giving the fisherman a large catch of fish. However, Jesus' intention for Simon's life was far greater.

5:5-6. Simon called Jesus Master. The Greek word translated Master is different from the word Peter used in verse 8 for "Lord." The use of these two words marks the way Simon's view of Jesus was affected by the miracle described in verses 6-7. Simon noted the fishermen had labored hard all night without results. Perhaps the men might have laughed if anyone else had told them how and where to fish. However, Simon's obedience displayed his respect for Jesus' authority. Imagine the fishermen's surprise when they caught such a great number of fish that their nets were inadequate for the weight and began to tear. Until now, they may have cooperated more out of indulgence than belief that they would catch many fish by following Jesus' instructions.

5:7-8. Even when the fishermen in the second boat joined the effort, so many fish were in both boats that they began to sink. The fish harvest was so great that it not only was too much for the nets but also overwhelmed the capacity of the small fishing boats common to the lake. The fishermen immediately recognized the miraculous nature of this experience. Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees, a sign of submission and pleading. He addressed Jesus as Lord. Here the Greek word indicates Simon was acknowledging Jesus' authority. The presence of the Lord in His holiness brings recognition of personal sin. Simon asked Jesus to depart, not because he was afraid of Jesus' power, but because Simon was aware he was a sinful man. Confronted with His holiness, many sinners want to avoid God.

5:10-11. Simon and his companions were not the only ones amazed. James and John, who had come up in the other boat (see v. 7), also responded with astonishment at the power of Christ. Luke identified James and John as Zebedee's sons. The two would join Simon Peter in the inner circle of Christ's followers. When the fishermen obeyed Jesus' instructions (and at least Simon Peter probably did so reluctantly), they caught more fish than their nets or boats could handle. Simon then recognized and acknowledged Jesus as the Lord. Although Jesus' invitation was addressed to Simon, it obviously was also meant for James and John. Luke noted the inclusiveness of the response in the plural pronoun they. Simon and his crew in one boat and James and John in the second boat brought the boats to land. Partners in commercial fishing, these three along with Andrew were to become partners in following Jesus.

5:27-28 Although Jesus appeared to see Levi in passing and beckoned him, "Follow Me," Jesus never did anything without forethought and purpose. Doubtless He had seen Levi the tax collector at his station at the tax office before this time. The focus of Luke's account is Levi's response to Jesus' command. Just as the fishermen left all (5:1-11), even so Levi left everything.

5:29 Levi was elated that Jesus would invite him to join His company and was grateful Jesus had given him a new life. He asked Jesus to be the guest of honor at a banquet at his house. Levi naturally invited those who had been his friends and business associates. Other Jews shunned tax collectors because they were employed by the Romans to collect taxes from their fellow citizens. The tax collectors were allowed to keep for themselves any amount they could coerce above the required tax. Unscrupulous men became rich from the disreputable trade at the expense of their countrymen. However, Jesus extended a hand of acceptance to those rejected by others.

5:30 The response of the Pharisees and scribes may not have occurred at the banquet. Otherwise they would have been guilty of the same impropriety of which they accused Jesus and the disciples. They did not approach Jesus directly but complained to His disciples. These self-righteous religious leaders saw socializing with tax collectors and sinners as improper behavior and thus shunned such people.

5:31 In His response, Jesus was not equating the Pharisees' self-righteousness with spiritual health. Rather He was focusing on those who knew they had spiritual needs—the same tax collectors and sinners at the banquet in need of His love and forgiveness. Unfortunately, the Pharisees did not recognize they had the same malady and also needed the Great Physician's help.

5:32 Again, Jesus was not suggesting the Pharisees were spiritually healthy. The use of “righteous” probably touched a nerve with the religious leaders. Jesus saw and exposed their self-righteousness in a single sentence. Only people who are willing to acknowledge they are sinners can repent. Jesus wants us to recognize we have sinned and to come to Him in repentance. As we receive His forgiveness, we become more aware of our unworthiness of His love. We then are more forgiving and accepting of others.