

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Feb 17, 2019

Deep Water Discipleship

Pastor Temple 8:15, 9:30 Pastor Hook 10:55

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about in the past week? About follow-ups from last Sunday, on Rejected (Jesus in Nazareth)?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener Question: What do you think prevents people from, in John Wesley's language, moving from being an "almost Christian" to an "altogether Christian?"

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Luke 5:1-11. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who 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 from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began 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 full that they began to sink. ⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- In verses 1-5, Peter had not yet given up everything to follow Jesus, but what signs are present there that his relationship with Jesus was deepening (vs 3, 5)?

- What object lesson do you believe Jesus intended for Peter with the miraculous catch of fish in verses 6-7?
- How do you explain Peter's need to confess personal sin in this particular moment (vs. 8)?
- Do you find it odd that these fisherman (Peter, James and John) would, right after the catch of their lifetimes, choose to leave it all behind and follow Jesus? Why or why not?
- What do you think swayed Peter from half commitment to Christ to full commitment?

Other Related Scriptures (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read out loud Isaiah 6:1-8. This is another great Biblical story of God issuing a calling on someone's life.
- In what setting does verse 1 place this miraculous encounter with the Lord and how does the Lord appear to Isaiah?
- What else does this passage reveal about the Lord?
- What similarities do you see between the calling of Peter and the calling of Isaiah (vs. 5 and 8)?
- How is the sinfulness of Isaiah and Peter dealt with in both passages in their becoming servants of God?
- How does fear and personal shame sometimes keep God's children from responding to His offers of restoration or following divine callings upon their lives?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional scripture above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- How can our personal histories create mental failure barriers which place limits on what we think God can or will do?
- If God spoke to Peter the fisherman through fish, in what various ways might God be speaking personally to us?
- What would it mean for us to take Jesus at his word this week? What risks might it involve?
- How might "Deep Water Discipleship" take us to places we haven't been or to people we have never met or have us be instruments of peace and healing in new ways?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- Jesus called Peter to follow him and be a fisher of persons. In practical terms, what is meant by "catching" a person and leading them to Jesus in Christian love?
- Are we willing to go beyond our comfort zones this week in our witness for Christ? What are some possible examples of this for us?

- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.