

## What on Earth Are We Here For? Week One: Centering Your Life on Jesus

**Getting Started:** Take a few minutes and discuss this question: **What was it like the first time you left home (for college, the military, a job, marriage, etc.)?**

As Jesus began his ministry, he asked for commitment from those who would follow him. This is illustrated in a vivid way when Simon Peter and the other disciples began their journey with Jesus.

### **Bible Study:**

Read the first eleven verses of Luke chapter 5 –

*One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. <sup>2</sup> He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> 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.*

*<sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."*

*<sup>5</sup> 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."*

*<sup>6</sup> When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup> 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.*

*<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup> For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup> 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." <sup>11</sup> So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.*

Jesus had already begun to make a name for himself as a great teacher and miraculous healer. It was already clear that there was something different about him. And on this day, he was teaching the people by the edge of the lake.

1) Imagine for a moment that you were Simon at the start of this encounter. What would you be thinking when Jesus asked to preach from your boat? What were you feeling when he asked you to put out to deep water?

2) Read verse 5 again. In his teaching this weekend, David noted the phrase from, “Because you say so.” What does this phrase tell you about Simon? What does it tell you about Jesus?

3) Think about the actual miracle for a moment. (Anyone who has ever fished will attest this is a miracle!) What do you think Jesus was trying to demonstrate to these fishermen in this miraculous catch?

4) This miracle had a profound effect on Peter (and his companions). What was his response in verse 8? What do you think he was conveying by his statement to Jesus?

5) What was the result of this interaction between Jesus and the fishermen?

### **Application:**

Jesus was not an “expert” on fishing – he was a carpenter’s son and a rabbi. It would have been easy for Simon and the other fishermen to say, “Stay in your own lane, Jesus. You don’t know anything about fishing.” However, that would have been underestimating the understanding and empathy of God.

1) What are some of the areas where people are tempted to say, “Stay in your lane, Jesus. Don’t talk to me about fill in the blank.” Where are the places we have doubt about Jesus’ ability to ‘know our business’?

2) Once you come to investigate the person of Jesus in the Bible, you will see the word “Lord” – which has some pretty big implications. What are the barriers or objections most people have about giving Jesus this level of influence in their lives?

3) Are there people in your life for whom you are willing to inconvenience yourself because of the place they hold in your life? Who is in your small circle of people for whom you would say, “I wouldn’t do this for anyone else”? What does it take for Jesus to get this kind of treatment from us?

4) Verse 11 says that this miracle was so profound that Simon, Andrew, James and John “left everything” and followed Jesus. In these moments they recognized Jesus as more than a good teacher – he was the son of God. Have you come to the place where you see Jesus as more than a good teacher? When did that happen for you? Are there things about your former life that you’ve “left behind” to follow him?

**For Further Thought:**

Through the week, take a look at Luke 9:23-24. Read those verses every day and remember that life is a wonderful gift from God that has incredible potential to bring you great joy and bless the world. But at the core, life is best lived when it is centered on Jesus and living with his priorities as our own. That will involve denying some of our own desires - but the payoff is a life of grace and joy. Ask yourself each day: Am I centering my life around Jesus today?