

LIFE Group Sermon Questions

The Center of Everything: Commissioned

Pastor Josh Parsons

September 7, 2025

Luke 5:1-11



THE ORCHARD

Luke 5:1-11

“On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, 2 and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3 Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.’ 5 And Simon answered, ‘Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.’ 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. 7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.’ 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished 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. And Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.’ 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.”

Sermon Outline

- I. The presence of Jesus (Luke 5:3-4)
- II. The pull of discouragement (Luke 5:5)
- III. The obedience of faith (Luke 5:5)
- IV. The source of success (Luke 5:6-7)
- V. The necessity of humility (Luke 5:8)

Discussion Questions

1. What did you learn today from the Scripture passage(s) that you didn’t know before? What is something that hit you in a fresh way?

2. Luke 5:1 tells us that “the crowd was pressing in on [Jesus] to hear the word of God.” What do you think a *desire* for God’s Word would/does look like in your life? What do you think dampens your desire for God’s Word?

3. In Luke 5:2-3, Jesus uses Simon’s boat for a pulpit. He didn’t demand teaching opportunities at grand halls or important palaces, but where *all* could hear him and see him. What does this tell you about Jesus? How do you think this should affect the way *you* tell other people *about* Jesus?

4. Where are some other places in Luke (or the other Gospels) when Jesus uses something he *does* as an illustration for something he *says*?
5. Do you think the presence of Jesus will help give you courage to tell others about him? Why or why not? What encourages you about the promise that he will never leave you (see Matthew 28:18-20)?
6. In what ways have you been discouraged in your fishing for people? Why do you think Jesus would have you press on in that work he's given you to do?
7. If you're going to catch fish, you have to put down your nets. What's hard about obeying the command of Jesus and inviting others to follow him? What was it about Jesus that you think compelled Simon Peter to put out into the deep and let down his nets? What is it about Jesus that might help you obey what he's called you to do?
8. Why is it important to understand that *Jesus* saves people and not us? What are the dangers if we think differently?
9. How would you help someone know how to *pray* for a person they know who doesn't yet know Christ?
10. Why is the first step for Christian usefulness humility before God? Would you say you're humble before God? Why or why not? Take a few minutes as a group asking that God would give you a posture like Simon Peter so that you might be used by him.