



Discussion Guide Stories Worth Sharing – Part 2 LEADER GUIDE

.....

Hey leaders! Last week we began our new series, "Stories Worth Sharing"! We're excited to help our church see the character of Jesus and that we all have impactful stories to share. Just like we'll hear the Gospel in these stories, people can hear the Gospel through OUR stories!

**NOTE* Due to campus pastors preaching slightly different sermons this weekend, this week's discussion guide will be more to accommodate each sermon. However, we do encourage you to ask your group to come prepared to share a few of their favorite quotes and/or ideas from your campus's sermon if they'd like to.*

Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

.....

"We've drifted away from being fishers of men to being keepers of the aquarium."
[Paul Harvey]

LEADER RESOURCES || Leader Note We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!

- **Passage Summary**
 - As Jesus walks along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, He sees two sets of brothers who are fishermen: Simon and Andrew, and James and John. After Jesus finishes teaching, He tells Simon to cast off from shore and let down his nets to fish. Simon obeys and they catch two boats full of fish. Simon recognizes that Jesus is the Christ and is told that from now on he will be catching men instead. After returning to shore, the four men leave everything and follow Jesus!
- **Luke Ch. 5 Commentary & The Miracle of the Fish**
 - Use this commentary and video (scene from "The Chosen") for background and encouragement. These would be good resources to share before you gather.
- **Fishers of Men**
 - This would be a good devotional resource to share with your group after you gather.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || Leader Note The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another's hearts and building joy together.

Share about an experience when something exceeded your expectations greatly. How did that cause you to feel or react?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || Leader Note Begin your time together by thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, beginning in a posture of humility and dependence!

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*"In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning
I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation."*

[Psalm 5:3]

BIG IDEA || Leader Note Read this aloud so your group knows what the theme of today's discussion is.

Jesus invites us into greater expectations for what He wants to do in our lives and through our story!

PASSAGE || Leader Note Have someone read the passage aloud slowly. Consider having another person read it aloud again (possibly in a different translation) or use **Dwell** to listen to it read aloud.

- Luke 5:1-11

DISCUSSION || Leader Note Your role is to FACILITATE the conversation, so keep your group moving and encourage multiple people to share, looking for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two REMINDERS: 1) Every question does NOT have to be answered ... there is freedom to go where the Spirit leads! 2) The answers do NOT have to be read aloud ... they are simply there for guidance!

1. What has held you back from cooperating with what God wants to do in your own life? (i.e. looking foolish, comfort, self-reliance, shame) *This is a good opportunity to go first!*
2. What does Simon Peter's willingness to obey Jesus despite his fatigue and prior failure teach us about trust and obedience? *His willingness to obey Jesus teaches us the importance of trusting in God's word even when circumstances seem unfavorable. In our lives, this means stepping out in faith and following God's guidance, trusting that His plans are greater than our own efforts.*
3. How can we identify moments when God is calling us to "put out into deep water" in our own lives? *We can identify these moments through prayer, reflection, and being attuned to the Holy Spirit's prompting. When we feel a persistent nudge to take a risk, step out of our comfort zone, or pursue a path that requires faith, it may be God calling us to deeper trust and reliance on Him. It often involves stepping into areas that challenge us and require a dependence on God's strength. What might that moment be for you right now?*
4. The canvas for God's glory is for us to admit our weaknesses. In what way(s) do you currently feel small and/or weak? Let's submit those to the Lord together so He can empower us!
5. What are some ways we can respond when we feel unworthy, like Peter did, in the presence of God's holiness? *When feeling unworthy, we can acknowledge our sinfulness and need for Jesus' grace. It's crucial to remember that Jesus calls us not because we are worthy, but because of His love and mercy. Confession, repentance, and accepting God's forgiveness are key steps. Understanding that God can use us despite our flaws can help us embrace His calling with humility and gratitude.*
6. How can we support one another to have the courage to follow Jesus' calling, even when it requires significant life changes? *Supporting each other involves creating a safe and encouraging environment where members can share their struggles and fears. We can pray for one another, offer practical help, and provide accountability. Sharing testimonies of faith and God's faithfulness can also inspire courage. Encouraging each other to stay connected to God through prayer and scripture will reinforce our collective resolve to follow His calling.*

7. How does Jesus' promise to make Simon Peter a "fisher of men" resonate with our mission as Christians today? *Jesus' promise to Simon Peter highlights the mission of evangelism and discipleship. As Christians, we are called to share the gospel and help others come to know Jesus. This involves building relationships, sharing our faith, serving our communities, and living out the teachings of Christ. The analogy reminds us that just as fishing requires patience, perseverance, and skill, so does bringing others to faith.*
8. How can we cultivate a deeper sense of humility in our walk with Christ, similar to Peter's reaction to the miracle? *Cultivating humility involves regularly acknowledging our dependence on God and recognizing His greatness and our limitations. This can be done through prayer, worship, and meditating on scriptures that emphasize God's holiness and our need for His grace. Serving others selflessly, confessing our sins, and seeking feedback from fellow believers can also help us maintain a humble posture.*
9. How can we discern when to act on faith despite our doubts, as Peter did when he let down the nets? *Discerning when to act on faith involves seeking God's guidance through prayer, consulting scripture, and seeking counsel from trusted Christian mentors. It requires listening for the Holy Spirit's prompting and being willing to step out even when the outcome is uncertain. Reflecting on past experiences of God's faithfulness can also strengthen our resolve to act in faith.*
10. What are some modern-day "nets" that we might need to let down in obedience to Jesus' instructions? *Modern-day "nets" can include reaching out to someone in need, starting a new ministry, making career changes, forgiving someone, or sharing our faith with others. It may also involve using our talents and resources in ways that align with God's purposes, even when it seems inconvenient or risky. These acts of obedience demonstrate our trust in God's plans over our own.*
11. How can we effectively share the experiences of God's work in our lives with others to encourage their faith? *Sharing our experiences involves being open and honest about how God has worked in our lives, including both successes and challenges. We can share testimonies in small groups, church services, or one-on-one conversations. Using specific examples and explaining how God's presence made a difference can make our stories relatable and impactful. It's also important to listen to others' stories and affirm their experiences to build mutual encouragement.*
12. In what ways can we be more attentive to Jesus' presence and direction in the everyday moments of our lives? *Being more attentive to Jesus' presence involves cultivating spiritual disciplines such as daily prayer, Bible reading, and meditation. It means being mindful of God's presence throughout our day, seeking His guidance in decisions, and being open to the Holy Spirit's prompting. Practicing gratitude, reflecting on our experiences with God, and staying connected with other believers can also heighten our awareness of Jesus' ongoing direction in our lives.*

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

We have been filled with the same Spirit as the first disciples for the mission of being fishers of men, seizing opportunities to share Christ with others! The first step is to surrender whatever is holding us back from embracing this mission more fully. Based on the Holy Spirit's prompting today, **what is a step of obedience that you can take?** Here are a few areas to consider leaving behind so you can embrace Jesus' invitation to being a participant in His mission ...

- Wrong beliefs
- Doubts or fears

- Lack of abilities
- Time constraints
- Relying on your own understanding

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note *We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes for prayer at the end of your gathering each week to pray together. You can pray for one another as well as the prompt below!*

Being “Fishers of Men”

- Thank you God for calling us to be fishers of men and inviting us to join your mission. Fill us with your Spirit, giving us the courage and wisdom to share your love and truth.
- Help us to see opportunities to reach out to others with compassion and grace. May our words and actions draw people to you, reflecting your love and transforming lives!

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE *Optional* *We include a monthly spiritual practice that can be shared with your group after you gather. Our hope is for this to enhance what we’re learning and discussing together, so share about your experience with the practice at the beginning of your gatherings or throughout the week!*

Welcoming Prayer is an invitation to welcome everything, knowing that everything that happens to us is something we can learn and grow from. It also helps us consent to God’s presence and action in our physical and emotional reactions to anything that happens to us and around us. Give it a try!

- [Welcoming Prayer](#) or rockbridge.cc/welcoming-prayer