

JESUS

through the eyes of the unlikely

Week of January 22—The Fish¹

Overview:

Who do *you* see when you look at Jesus? Teacher? Miracle worker? Divine Son of God? All of these? Our view of Jesus is shaped by our own perspective, our church history, and our study of scripture. Over the next several weeks, we will view Jesus from Luke's perspective, through the eyes of some unlikely characters he met while on earth. We'll discover themes like identity, power, surrender, forgiveness, redemption, and many more. We pray that as you see Jesus in fresh ways, you are drawn to follow Jesus more closely and become more like him every day.²

Group Objectives:

Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purpose of community groups

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members.
- Consider how Jesus is unique and far superior to anyone or anything.

DNA statement(s) tie-in:

- *We encounter the Father daily*—God the Father speaks to us through the Bible, and we commune with him through prayer. We learn that we can go to Jesus too for all we need, and we are challenged to follow his example.

Conversation Starters:

- People talk about “big fish stories,” a story of something so big or practically impossible that it hardly seems true. What's the best fish story you have heard? Do you have one of your own?

Listening to God

- Where did you see God at work last week? How were you able to join him?

Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion

- **Read Luke 5:4-6**
 - From this passage, what does Jesus tell Simon to do? What is his response? What does this tell us about Simon's relationship with Jesus? What happens?
 - What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?
 - How does what happens connect to verse 10b-11 where Jesus calls Simon to be a “fisher of men”? What is Simon's response?

¹ This week's lesson was written by Teresa Baumbach and edited by Dawn Gentry.

² For a monthly reading and devotional guide to accompany this series in Luke, go to cccomaha.info.

- **Read Luke 8:22-25**
 - Summarize what is happening in this story.
 - What is the disciples' reaction to the storm?
 - What is Jesus' response?
 - Whose response seems to make the most sense? Why?
 - What do you think Jesus was trying to teach his disciples?

- **Read Luke 9:13-16**
 - Summarize this well-known story of the feeding of the 5000. What is the main point of this story?
 - Just prior to these verses, the disciples had just returned from “proclaiming the good news and healing everywhere” (v. 6). They told Jesus all that they had done. In light of this, what do you think Jesus expected when he told them, “You give them something to eat” (v. 13)?

Leaning into Obedience:

- What do these stories have in common? What can we learn from them?
- What do we learn about Jesus? What makes him “unique” and above anything or anyone else?
- From the perspective of the fish, they see Jesus as Creator, they obey and allow him to have control over their lives, and they trust Jesus to provide for their every need. Could we make obedience that simple? What would that look like in our own lives?
- How do you sense God calling you to respond to these passages?
 - Is there an example to follow? A command to obey?
- How can the group encourage you this week as you respond?

Prayer Prompts:

- Invite members of the group to share personal prayer requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following questions.
 - What question do I need to bring to Jesus?*
 - Do I trust him to hear me and answer me with grace?*
- Option: Read Ephesians 3:14-21 over your group as a benediction:

For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.