



Week 2

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT

ADULT DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Read Luke 5:1-11 How is this similar to what happens in John 21:1-14? How is it different?
2. In Luke 5, Jesus got in Simon/Peter's boat and taught from it. Simon could see Jesus clearly from a physical standpoint but didn't yet understand who he was. In that passage, why did Peter cast the net again after coming up empty all night long? In John 21, Peter knows and understands who Jesus is, but for some reason (distance? mist?) none of them can physically recognize Jesus. Why would they follow the commands of the man on shore if they didn't know who it was?
3. Often fishermen would have a "spotter" on shore who could see a school of fish from land while the people in the boat could not. The spotter, working as a guide, would look into the clear water and tell the fishermen whether to throw the net on the right or the left. How is this the perfect metaphor for Jesus and the disciples? How does that metaphor apply to us, today?
4. Peter couldn't wait to see Jesus. He jumped out of the boat and abandoned the others. Why did Peter put this tunic (outer garment) back on first? Wouldn't he have been able to swim faster without it? Why not leave it in the boat? What was the relationships between Jewish greetings and clothes?
5. In v.9 we learn that Jesus was already grilling fish (and he had bread). Why then would He help the disciples catch more fish and bring the fish to breakfast.
6. Last week, we read how Thomas wanted/needed additional proof that Jesus had risen from the dead. He wanted to be sure that his friends had not simply seen a vision of a ghost or spirit. What did Thomas ask for to make sure that Jesus was real? Thomas needed something tactile. What tactile things did Jesus do in this account that prove the disciples weren't simply seeing a vision or hallucination?
7. What is the significance of the 153 fish? Why might John include that exact number? One scholar suggests that there were 153 species of fish in the Sea of Galilee and that the net contained one of each type of fish. If that's true, how does it relate to the call on Jesus for the disciples to be fishers of men? Could this be foreshadowing of how the disciples would spread out to share the gospel to all nations? If the net is symbolic of the church, what is the significance of it not breaking while holding the 153 fish?
8. Read John 20:30. It kind of sounds like that should be the end of John's gospel, doesn't it? Yet, John came back and wrote some more (Chapter 21). Why? What's so important about Jesus' third time to reveal himself to the disciples (v.14) that John felt this story needed to be included in his gospel account? Jesus ate and drank with his disciples. He wasn't a spirit. He was leaving NO DOUBT that he had been resurrected and therefore conquered death.

STUDENTS DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. The disciples were so distracted with their task at hand (fishing) that they never even recognized Jesus on the shore. Is there something in your life that you are so focused on achieving or doing well that you neglect to see Jesus in? If so, what? Explain.
2. Jesus instructed the disciples to throw their net on the other side of the boat and they caught tons of fish. Think about that, it was such a slight difference in what the disciples were already doing (net from the left side to the right side.) Sometimes we think that when Jesus asks us to do things it will be a HUGE drastic task, when often times all he wants to lead us to do is make small tweaks that make a HUGE difference. What is one area in your life that God wants you to make a small change? Write down the change AND how you would go about making the change.
3. Jesus spoke to Peter in a space/situation that Peter was comfortable, fishing. Jesus often times speaks to us where we are comfortable and naturally let our guard down. Where is a place that you feel most vulnerable/comfortable? How can you better utilize that space to experience the presence of God?
4. When Peter had his "light bulb" moment, he had no doubt that Jesus was who he said he was. Peter was filled with so much joy and excitement that he decided to swim to Jesus cause it would be faster than staying in the boat. How much do you truly desire to be in the presence of God? Write down your reflection.
5. Write down everything you have/need to live. I'm not just talking about food, water, and shelter (those are great too) but the physical things that you literally have. Next look at that list, think about how everything there is provided by God. Yes your parents have jobs, but those jobs are provided by him too. Write down your thoughts and share them with your family.

Here's Your Challenge:

- Write out "your space" in GREAT detail. "Your space" is the exact setting and situation (even time) where you can experience the Lord consistently.

It could be in your backyard, your bedroom, the living room, a park, etc. Describe what makes that space somewhere you feel like you can connect with God alone and why. Then, seek to spend time this week in that place for a few minutes a day. Be still and be expectant that God will meet you there.

KIDS DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. When our story opens , the disciples are waiting for Jesus. Do you every feel like you're waiting for Jesus to show up? What do you do while you're waiting?
2. Have you ever tried to do something and you weren't successful? The disciples were unsuccessful when they were fishing. They didn't catch anything. Have you ever gone fishing? Have you tried to work a puzzle, solve a problem, master a skill and you weren't successful? What did you do next?
3. Jesus gave the disciples instructions to put their fishing nets on the other side of the boat. Do you think it was hard for them to listen to this instruction? Who gives you instructions? Is it easy for you to follow instructions?
4. Have you seen the movie Elf? I love when Buddy says "Santa! I know Him!" Buddy could recognize who the real Santa was and who faking it. That's how excited Peter was to know Jesus! Is there anyone in your life that you run into or see that makes you really excited? Why do you think you know who they are when you see them? Why do you think Peter knew it was Jesus?
5. The disciples sat down and ate fish and bread with Jesus. They knew it was him, If you only had a short time left with your friend or someone close to you, what activity would you want to do together?

Family Activities:

- Elementary & Preschool: Play a game of Go Fish together as a family! If you don't know how to play, you can look up rules online. After you play the game talk about parts of the game that connect to today's Bible Story. What question did Jesus ask the disciples? What questions did you ask other players or did other players ask you? What did Jesus help the disciples do? How did you help other players?