



Unit .20

Session .04

Jesus Calls His Disciples

Scripture



Luke 5:3-11,27-32

3 He got into one of the boats, which belonged to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the land. Then he sat down and was teaching the crowds from the boat. **4** When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” **5** “Master,” Simon replied, “we’ve worked hard all night long and caught nothing. But if you say so, I’ll let down the nets.” **6** When they did this, they caught a great number of fish, and their nets began to tear. **7** So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them; they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. **8** When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’s knees and said, “Go away from me, because I’m a sinful man, Lord!” **9** For he and all those with him were amazed at the catch of fish they had taken, **10** and so were James and John, Zebedee’s

sons, who were Simon’s partners. “Don’t be afraid,” Jesus told Simon. “From now on you will be catching people.” **11** Then they brought the boats to land, left everything, and followed him. ... **27** After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, “Follow me.” **28** So, leaving everything behind, he got up and began to follow him. **29** Then Levi hosted a grand banquet for him at his house. Now there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others who were guests with them. **30** But the Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” **31** Jesus replied to them, “It is not those who are healthy who need a doctor, but those who are sick. **32** I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

In what ways have you experienced God's wisdom being different than the conventional wisdom of the world?

What is an accomplishment in life you knew could not have been carried out in your own strength?



99 Essential Doctrines

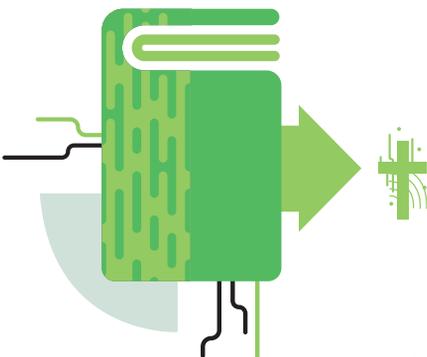
Evangelism

It is the duty and privilege of every Christian and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all thus rests upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle.

Main Point

The call to follow Jesus is a call to invite others to do the same.

Often we have a tendency toward being invitational without challenging others or challenging others without inviting them into relationship. Which way do you lean and why?



Christ Connection

Jesus came into the world to call sinners to repentance and to lay down His life on their behalf. Likewise, as His followers, we are to tell others about Jesus and call on them to turn from their sin and trust in Jesus.

Do you believe most churches and student ministries focus on this same aim as Jesus? Why or why not?

What are some ways you can cultivate relationships with those who are not Christians?



Head

What does Jesus' ministry to all types of people communicate about His character and calling?

Why is it both comforting and empowering for believers to know and understand that God calls ordinary people to proclaim His extraordinary gospel?



Heart

When it comes to trusting in God or relying upon our own intuitions or experience, which one should we choose? Why?

What role does God's Word have in helping us distinguish His voice from all others?



Hands

What are some challenges we face in sharing Jesus' message with others?

What should our attitude, actions, and mindset be when facing opposition from the culture when sharing the gospel?

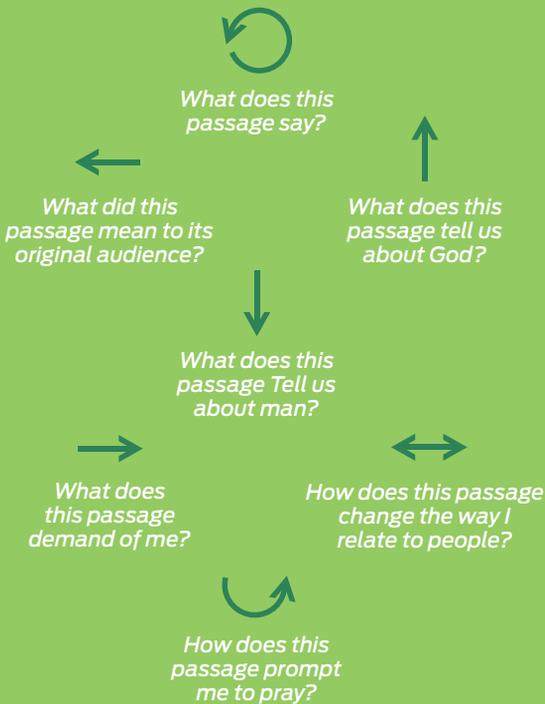
Daily Devotions



Day 1

Luke 5:1-11

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Isn't it ironic that after the biggest catch of fish in his career, Peter leaves it all behind to follow Jesus? Peter recognized that what Jesus was doing wasn't about the fish at all. Jesus was revealing Himself to Peter, James, and John. And so in response, they left all of it behind to be with Jesus.

Sometimes in our lives Jesus gives us gifts that are meant to draw us closer to Him, but instead we get so distracted by the gift that we end up neglecting Him more. The point is never the gift. The point is always the Giver of those gifts. Peter, James, and John recognized that the gift they were given wasn't actually the fish themselves. The real gift was getting to see Jesus more clearly and getting the opportunity to be with Him.

**What gifts has God given you today?
How can you use those gifts to
draw you into deeper relationship
with God?**

1 Corinthians

1:18-25

In this passage we see how the Jews struggled because they wanted their works to be enough and they wanted to see signs and miracles in order to believe. They were tied up in the external. Meanwhile the Gentiles' struggle was a desire for logic and reason to be their North Star. I don't think it's uncommon for us to struggle with both of these issues today. Some of us may lean more one way than the other, while some may equally wrestle with both. It may manifest itself in legalistic tendencies where we get trapped into thinking that God's love for us is determined on the number of quiet times we had this week. Or, it could play out in hesitation to obey what God says when it doesn't make sense from an earthly standpoint. In the midst of wherever you might struggle, the call to trust Christ is the same. He is "wiser than human wisdom...and stronger than human strength." Trusting Him will not let you down. But we must first be willing to take the leap of faith and trust Him with our hearts and in our actions that follow.

In what ways have you experienced God helping as you struggled through either legalism (thinking that works earn God's love or salvation) or through trusting human rationale more than God's wisdom?

Luke

5:27-32

Notice that Levi didn't invite a bunch of strangers to his dinner banquet to meet Jesus. These were friends, neighbors, and colleagues. He used his regular relationships in order to introduce people to Christ. Depending on where you live, your life might have lots of natural intersections with those who don't know Christ. But maybe you struggle to find ways to introduce your friends to Jesus. Maybe you're afraid of rejection, or losing friendships, or just the awkwardness of the situation. Or, you might live in the Bible belt, completely surrounded in a Christian bubble and have no idea where to start building relationships with those who don't know Jesus. And if that's you, then I want to encourage you to think of ways to reach out to people through activities you are already involved in in order to better build friendships with those who don't know Jesus.

Which area do you struggle with? (Identifying ways to introduce your friends to Jesus or building relationships with those who don't know Jesus?) How can you take a step toward growth in that area today?

Luke

6:12-16

Jesus knew that Judas Iscariot would become a traitor even when He chose him to be a disciple. And yet, He still chose him, became friends with him, loved him, and lived with him for years. I'm sure there are many reasons Jesus did this. One is the fact that God doesn't love us based on our performance. He knows we will sin. He knows we will betray Him. (Let's not forget, Peter betrayed him, too!) And yet, He loves us because it's who He is. In the same way, when we are in Christ, we love those around us because of who they are, not because of what they do for us.

Who is hardest for you to love? What would it look like to love them in the way God has loved you, not out of an expectation for something in return?

Ephesians

6:18-20

When we read through Paul's missionary journeys, it can seem like he is so confident and bold, like he always knows what to say and when to say it. But that's just not the case. We see it in these verses where Paul is making a vulnerable prayer request. He was scared. He asked for prayer that the message would be given to him and he asked for boldness to speak as he should. He not only expressed fear about knowing what to say, but fear about actually saying it!

These verses can be such a great encouragement to us. We aren't alone! We aren't alone in our fears of sharing the gospel, in our struggle to know what to say, or in our need for courage. Sharing the gospel can be scary—and it has been scary for Christians ever since Jesus walked the earth. And what a relief it is to know that we don't have to get rid of our fear in order to be faithful. I don't have to muster up some false sense of bravery or courage. We can ask God for help. We can ask him to give us courage and boldness. It doesn't have to come from us.

What fears do you have when it comes to sharing the gospel? Spend some time sharing those fears with the Lord and then ask Him for courage to trust Him and walk through the open doors he puts in front of you.