

## **“The Person God Uses” Pastor Steve Choi Leaders’ Guide**

### **Luke 5:1–11**

[1] 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. (ESV)

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**Main Idea:** God wants to use you to bring others to God. Fisher of men we are called to be. God can use anyone. He calls, humbles and transforms and then uses us.

### **The person Jesus uses:**

1. **God can use anyone.** He chooses out of all people to call Peter, a fisherman to follow him. Fishermen are not trained or educated theologically. We see that Peter is also emotional, sarcastic with the Lord and will even deny knowing Jesus later on. (Luke 5:4-5)

2. **God calls the person He uses.** This is God's initiative. We simply respond with obedience. God calls Simon in his "world", on a boat while fishing. (Luke 5:3-6)
    - "We cannot find God without God. We cannot reach God without God. We cannot satisfy God without God—which is another way of saying that our seeking will always fall short unless God's grace initiates the search and unless God's call draws us to him and completes the search." – Os Guinness, *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life*
  
  3. **God humbles those He uses.** We see Peter's humble response after seeing the miraculous catch of fish. Peter bows and confesses his sinful state before Jesus. (Luke 5:8) We are reminded of Isaiah's response when encountering God.
    - Isaiah 6:5 [5] And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" (ESV)
  
  4. **God transforms those He uses.** It is said that "God doesn't call the qualified but qualifies the called." We see Peter's transformation in two ways: First, the way he refers to Jesus changes from "Master" to "Lord" (Luke 5:5,8). This word Lord is a term used to refer to the divine. He viewed Jesus in the beginning as a human authority (master) and by the end he is transformed and sees Jesus as Lord. Secondly, we see Simon is referred to as "Simon Peter" here and then in the later parts of Luke he is simply called "Peter." Up to this point, he is referred to by his given name, Simon. One commentator points out that this is the only time he is called "Simon Peter" to highlight this moment of transformation from Simon to Peter. Lastly, we see a transformation in what he values. He leaves behind the biggest catch of his life to follow Jesus and catch people for the Kingdom.
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## Discussion Guide:

1. Give the group some time to share how they are doing.
2. Jesus calls Peter to use him. Why is Peter an unlikely candidate?
  - a. Peter is a fisherman. He is not educated. He also has a very emotional temperament. We see this in the way he often speaks to the Lord. He even denies him 3 times.
3. We see how Jesus calls Peter. How did God call you to Him?
  - a. Give a few people a chance to share how they came to faith. It might be good to start with your own story. This will open the group up to share their story as well.
4. Jesus humbles Peter after calling him. Why does Peter respond in this way?
  - a. Peter realizes who Jesus is. He is not just a human “master” but he is “Lord.” Jesus had power in His words and deeds. When we come to God two things are realized: the greatness of God and our own sinful inadequacies. We see a very similar response by Isaiah as well.
5. Lastly, we are transformed by God so we can be used by Him. In what ways was Peter transformed?
  - a. Peter’s value system is flipped upside down. He leaves behind the greatest catch of his life, not out of compulsion but because he now valued the mission Jesus had for him. Being a “fisher of men” was not his goal in life.
6. How does God want to use you these days?
  - a. Jesus may be calling you to serve others, tell others about the gospel, grow personally, use gifts and resources to further the kingdom. Take some time and give the group a chance to share what is impressed on their heart.