

Luke 5:1-11

Whom shall I send?

Jesus calls his first disciples, among them fishermen including Simon (later Peter). Simon and Jesus already knew each other, but, as a result of the miraculous catch of fish, Simon sees Jesus in a new light, and he is given a new task to do – to catch people.



Bible notes



This episode falls hot on the heels of the healing of Simon Peter's mother-in-law at Capernaum. One can easily imagine the confusion and disruption caused by Jesus, who appears and does two miraculous things in quick succession and then, without much commentary, asks that Simon Peter follows him to catch people instead of fish. The response of Simon Peter and his colleagues to this call is shown by Luke to be the correct one. This call marks the next major phase of the story as Jesus gathers followers 'who will listen to his teaching and witness his mighty acts and thus become qualified to teach and act with authority themselves'.¹ Not only does Simon Peter witness and understand Jesus' ministry and person, he also correctly identifies himself as a sinner. Even though the fishermen catch nothing at night, when they would most likely have succeeded, they still acknowledge the worth of Jesus' words as one who speaks with authority above the ordinary man. Simon Peter acknowledges Jesus as 'Lord' just as Elizabeth had also (1:43). As a result, Simon Peter abandons security and certainty to follow Jesus – as tradition has it, all the way to his own cross.

First impressions

- What stops us following Jesus' call on our lives?
- Is there something you feel you are being called to now?
- How can you encourage others to follow their call?



DISCOVER



Research volunteering opportunities around the world through different Christian charities and organisations using Google, or a website such as christianjobs.co.uk/volunteer or a charity such as Operation Mobilisation (uk.om.org). Prayerfully consider to whom Jesus might send you.

REFLECT

Read through the story, reflecting on it from different characters' perspectives. Pause at different points in the story to wonder how they might be feeling at each point. How do you think Simon Peter felt? How did James and John feel? How did the people stood on the shore react?

CREATE

Cut out a paper chain people and write your name and family/friends' names on to them. Reflect on what makes each person special. Remember that each unique person is called by Jesus.

Pray



With one hand, hold each finger of your other hand in turn, and pray for:

- Thumb: Those closest to your heart – family and friends.
- Pointer finger: Those giving direction – teachers, doctors, coaches, etc.
- Index finger: Those in leadership – government, business, church.
- Ring finger: Those who are weak – sick, poor and most in need.
- Pinky finger: Yourself.

WATCH

Read *Yes Man* by Danny Wallace, or watch the film with the same name starring Jim Carrey, which is based upon a year of Danny's life where he said 'Yes' to any offers that came his way. While you may not want to say Yes to everything for a whole year, you could choose to do so for say 24 hours, or a whole weekend, and see where it takes you...

¹ John T Carroll, Luke: A Commentary, WJK, 2012, p.124