**Reflections Luke 5: 1-11 – 9-155 February 2025**

**Whom shall I send?**

**Begin with an opening prayer**

Holy God, we gather to worship you in all of your glory.
Fill this place with your Holy Spirit and help us
to see more of who you really are.
Come, meet us and prepare us to do your will.**Amen**

**Read the passage**

*Consider different ways to read the text. For example, hearing it in more than one version of the Bible.*

Luke 5: 1-11

**Jesus Calls His First Disciples**

**5**One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke%205&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25109a)] the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. **2**He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. **3**He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

**4**When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

**5**Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

**6**When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. **7**So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

**8**When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” **9**For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, **10**and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” **11**So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

**Explore and respond to the text**

*Start by reading the Bible notes below. You may want to read them more than once or pause after each paragraph to reflect on what you have read.*

**Bible notes**This episode falls hot on the heels of the healing of Simon’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.

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

 **Reflection**

*Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.*

Simon Peter was a fisherman. Jesus told him that he would continue to fish, but for people. Peter was used to planning out a day’s catch of fish; now he was planning where to go and how to reach people. Similarly, can we give thought to how we can best meet people and to help them to see Jesus. If Jesus is going to encounter our friends and family in their workplaces or their homes, it will surely be through us!

**Questions for reflection**

*You may wish to use these questions and the picture to help you think about or discuss issues arising from this week’s Bible passage.*

**First impressions**

You could also use the image and following questions to help introduce the theme.

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 **Questions**

* 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?

**A prayer to end the Bible study**

Almighty God, you have given us a fresh glimpse
of your glory and majesty.
We are not worthy to walk with you,
but you have made us clean.
Send us out, in the power of your Holy Spirit,
to speak your words and to show your love.
**Amen.**