

# Am I Willing to Go Deeper?

Rev. Kendrick Allen | Luke 5:1-11

February 11, 2018 | Winter Cycle: Week 5 of 10

## Personal Connection (25 minutes)

### Icebreaker

Share about a time in your past when you worked on a project by yourself but wouldn't admit that you needed help.

### Ups and Downs

How is your relationship with Christ going? Are you wrestling with any important decisions he is leading you to, and struggling to make a decision?

### Praying for each other

Pray for the group, particularly for obedience in following and faithfully seeking to be shaped into the image of Christ.

### Sharing Christ

Last week we discussed that suffering may follow sharing the gospel, noting, however, that God's glory is too awesome to keep a secret! Has this realization emboldened you to share the gospel, anyway?

### Review Last Sunday's *What Now?*

Being a servant of Christ Jesus means making yourself available to share the gospel, both seeking and recognizing opportunities. The Lord is with you, providing the ability, courage, and power as you represent him.

## Digging Deeper (30 minutes)

### This Week's Key Concept:

**As believers in Jesus Christ, we are called to *catch* people for Christ! To *catch* people for Christ requires going deeper with God so that we can be prepared by and for God.**

### Read Luke 5:1-11

In Luke 5:3-5, Jesus asks Simon Peter to move the boat out into the water so he could preach to the large crowds gathered, and Peter does as Jesus asks. But then, Jesus commands Simon Peter to take the boat out to go fishing. Peter gives a brief protest, but agrees because the Lord commanded it.

To catch people for Christ, we must obey the sovereign authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Q. Think of a time when you sensed Christ asking something of you. Perhaps it made complete sense to you but perhaps it did not. How did you respond?

*Note: Simon Peter was a professional fisherman and Jesus a carpenter — giving him instruction on how to do his job! Simon Peter knew the best time to fish was during the night, and he had already been fishing all that night without success, but he submitted to the Lord's request anyway. It resulted in a miraculous success!*

Q. If you are honest with yourself, how often do you protest or avoid the Lord's promptings when he asks you to do something?

*Hebrews 13:21 (NLT) May he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen.*

Q. What does Simon Peter's example in Luke 5:7 teach us about catching people for Christ?

Q. Have you ever tried to share the gospel? How did it go? Would you have felt more comfortable if others had been with you?

Q. Read Luke 5:8-9. Describe Simon Peter's reaction to Jesus after the miracle. What truth does this teach us about our part in bringing in the catch? Our Lord's part?

Q. Do you take time daily to "get-to-know" your Lord? What do you know about yourself, in light of our Lord?

Note: An effective witness for the Lord simultaneously holds an exalted view of Jesus Christ while recognizing his or her own unworthiness compared to Christ's gloriousness and perfection.

In Luke 5:10-11, Jesus explains to Simon Peter and the others that they will be fishing for people from now on. They drop everything they are doing and follow Jesus.

Q. Have you ever felt like Christ was leading you to change directions, whether that meant stopping or starting something?

Note: Shifting our focus from success in our lives/careers/studies, does not imply that it is wrong to be successful in your endeavors per se, or that you must leave the "secular" world to be immersed full-time in ministry. What it does mean is adopting his purpose in your life, and that those who surround you each day are your mission field.

### Impact Questions

Q. What would going deeper with Christ look like in your life this week? Name one step you could take this week to move into deeper waters.

Q. The fishermen had a new calling: become fishers of men. As Christ's followers, we share this same calling. Reflect on how you are doing fulfilling this call on your life; share with the group ways they could help you take the next step of growth in this area.

**The details in our lives are just as important to God as are the big decisions. He is with us through it all, and sometimes God calls us to leave something behind; it's not always drastic changes. Sometimes it means letting go of the past, surrendering a sin pattern, stepping forward in obedience and faith, or being more open with your faith to others. The things he asks of us may be small, but the results of the small steps in faith are often huge! Whatever you do with your daily life, your main goal should be to glorify God, and your main focus should be to be a witness for Jesus Christ through your behavior, attitude, and your words. This requires a shift in focus as you begin to view people as Christ does and to view yourself as his representative in your sphere of influence.**

### What now? (15 minutes)

Pray to the Lord for obedience and faith for the small daily decisions in our lives.

### Closing Prayer (15 minutes)

Please share your prayer requests and praises, so that your LIFE Group may lift you up in prayer. Please pray that we would be active and willing participants in growing God's Kingdom and responsive to Christ's leading in our lives.